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Details and token, Weekend page 11



SIMON JENKINS

In praise of the new Grand Louvre

Gallic flair, British despair, page 16

40P SATURDAY EDITION

THE TIMES

No. 64,865 SATURDAY JANUARY 29 1994

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● Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*, said last night:

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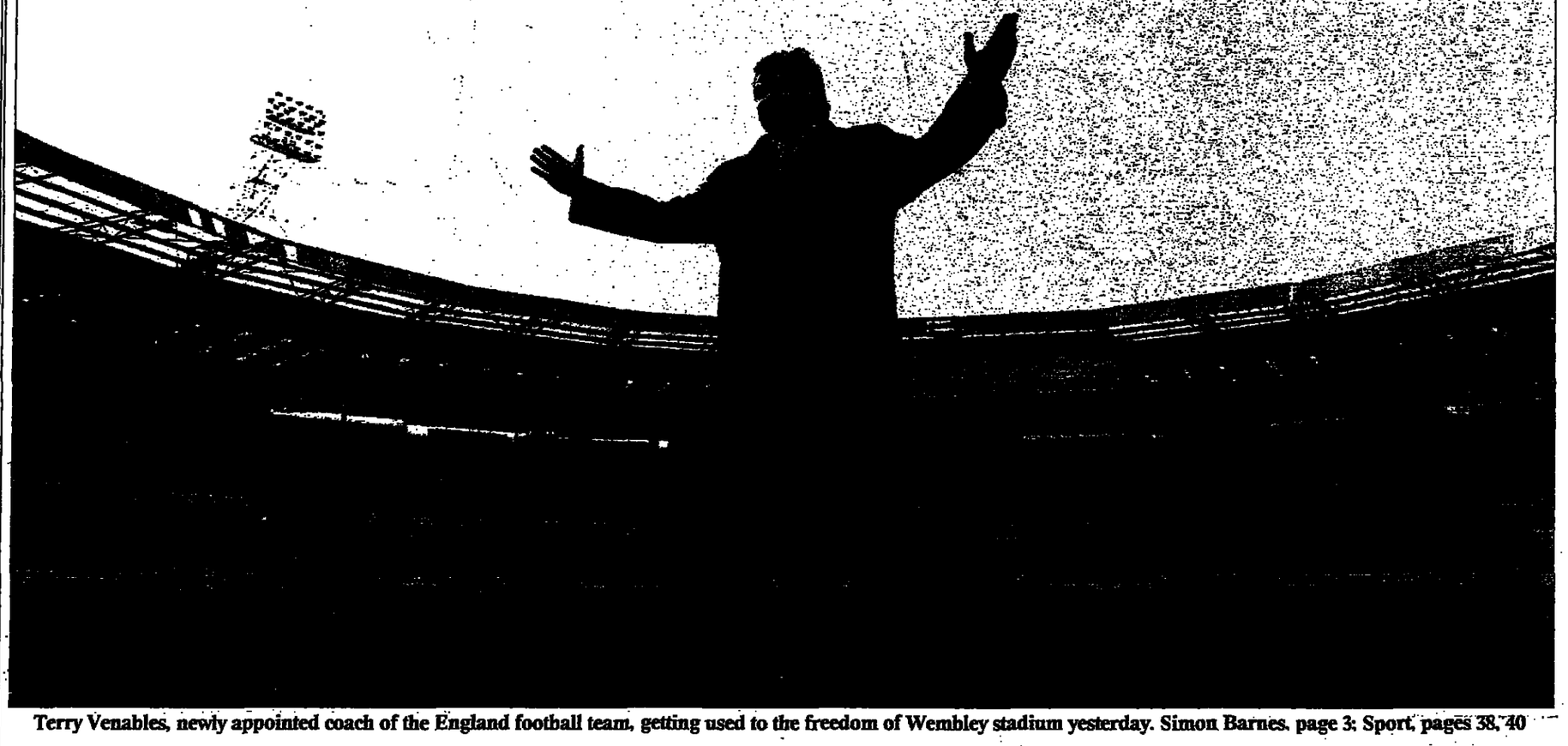
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● This week *The Times* again set the political agenda by first pointing out the true level of Tory taxation. *The Times* also offers the wisest and wittiest columnists — including Simon Jenkins, William Rees-Mogg, Bernard Levin, Alan Coren and Matthew Parris. With Peter Riddell's political commentary, Anatole Kaletsky on economics and Janet Daley's weekly guide through the moral maze, *The Times* is unsurpassed for both values and value.

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MARC ASPLAND

Terry Venables, newly appointed coach of the England football team, getting used to the freedom of Wembley stadium yesterday. Simon Barnes, page 3; Sport, pages 38, 40

Gulf veteran killed in aid convoy attack

BY ANTHONY LOYD IN VITEZ AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

■ The deaths of a British aid driver and three Italian journalists in Bosnia will fuel the debate about whether UN troops should stay in the war zone

THE Government yesterday suspended official aid convoys throughout the former Yugoslavia after a hijacked British driver, a Gulf War veteran, was deliberately shot dead in Bosnia. His two companions, also former British soldiers, were shot as they fled across an icy river.

The dead man, Paul Goodall, 35, was shot twice in the head after the unidentified gunmen seized the men's Land-Rover in Zenica, a Muslim-controlled area in central Bosnia. His colleagues, David Court, 42, of Plymouth, and Simon King, 27, of Birmingham, were in hospital last night at the British Army base in Vitez, where their condition was described as stable.

The men were part of a team of Overseas Development Administration drivers assigned to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Hours after the Britons were shot, three Italian journalists were killed by a shell in the southern Bosnian town of Mostar. The journalists, who worked for Italian state television, died in heavy shelling by the Bosnian Croat forces in the Muslim-held part of town.

The hijacking of the three British former soldiers began when they left the administration's compound in Zenica on Thursday night and were driving back to their hotel. They were held up by three uniformed men carrying Kalashnikov rifles who demanded their Land-Rover. The Britons handed over the keys and were bundled into the car, driven a short distance out of town, beaten and robbed. The gang leader ordered his men to kill the Britons and as they fled Mr Goodall, a father of four from Earby, Lancashire, was shot twice in the head.

"They spoke to us only to give directions; stand up, sit down, go over there," Mr King said later in the medical centre at the British UN base in Vitez, where he is recovering from bullet wounds to his right arm and knee. "They told us to squat down facing the river. I heard a shot, looked up and saw that Paul had been shot, so I decided to jump in the river. As I jumped, I felt a round hit my right arm, but the river was so cold I soon lost any feeling. I swam underwater as far as I could."

On the far bank he met Mr Court who had been shot in the chest. The two survivors staggered through the snow to houses near by, where their wounds were bandaged by residents, before being taken to Zenica hospital by ambulance.

"Mr Court was still conscious, but spoke only to ask about the condition of his companion," said Zlatan Curic, the senior surgeon at the hospital.

Ron Redmond, the UNHCR spokesman in Sarajevo, said: "This was so vicious and cold-blooded." He said the UNHCR was considering whether to suspend its aid operations, as it did for a month after a Danish driver was shot dead in October.

John Major, emerging from

Continued on page 3, col 4



Goodall: shot twice in the head

The daily dangers, page 3
Spring deadline, page 15



Lamont: says Major is weak and hopeless

Row over Lamont attack

BY JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR has received another blow from Norman Lamont, his former Chancellor, who is quoted in an interview this morning as describing him as "weak and hopeless".

In an interview with *The Times Magazine*, Mr Lamont is also reported as describing the Prime Minister's moral crusade as nauseating and saying that Mr Major censored his speeches when he was Chancellor, once taking out every mention of Baroness Thatcher.

Last night Mr Lamont said the interview contained some remarks which he made off-the-record and had not believed would be published.

In a statement to the Press Association he described the article as "a mixture of invented quotations and muddled misrepresentation of things said off the record outside the interview.

"It does not reflect accurately either my views or my general attitude."

Peter Stothard, the editor of *The Times*, said last night: "*The Times* fully stands

Continued on page 2, col 4

I'm betting on Britain, says buoyant Major

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major tried last night to rescue his beleaguered back-to-basics policy by focusing on the economy and launching a new slogan, "I'm betting on Britain".

In attempting to move the debate away from taxation and morality and switch it to the economy, the Prime Minister set out his priorities for the year and called for the "reskilling of Britain".

John Smith, the Labour Leader, was quick to ridicule his speech, claiming it said nothing new and contained more "empty promises".

Mr Major told the Leeds Chamber of Commerce that his overriding priorities were the economy, education, and building a safer and more ordered society. "These are the basics," he said, making clear that he had no intention of jettisoning the policy launched at the Conservative Party conference last year, which has come to haunt him in a series of political scandals.

The economy was "getting back to the most basic basics of all: lower borrowing, lower unemployment, low inflation and more growth". His main plea was that British industry should be more competitive. But he argued that it could not happen without the people to compete. "That's why getting back to basics in education must be at the centre of our programme," he said. "What we are working for is nothing less than the reskilling of Britain."

Mr Major excluded lower taxation as one of the Government's central aims, but in a passing reference to the imminent onset of tax increases, he said: "It is right to take the tough decisions today that will make everyone better off tomorrow. To bring government borrowing down, we have had to put some taxes up."

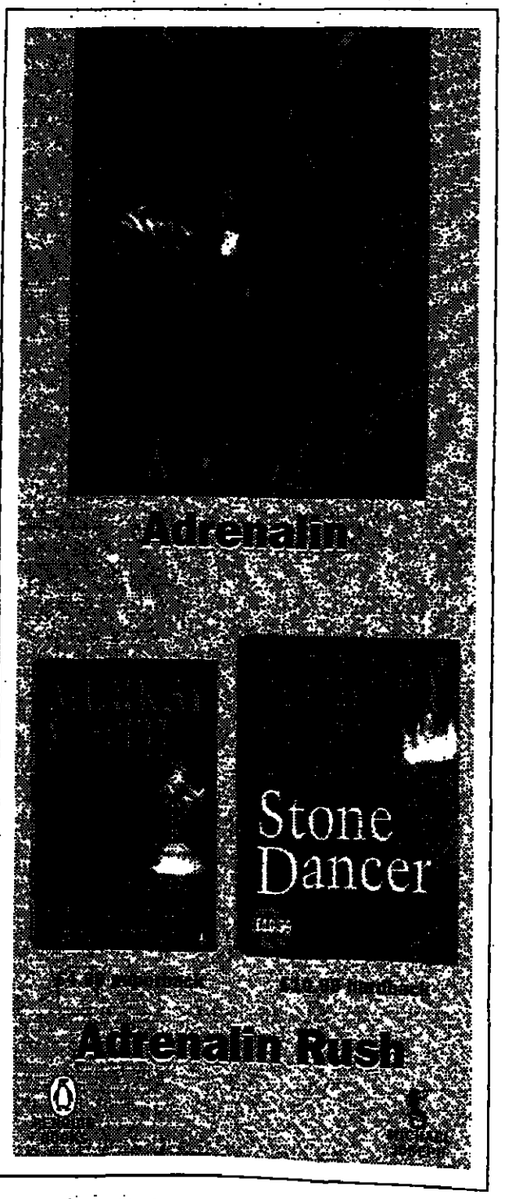
He insisted that any pay increases would have to be financed out of increased productivity and efficiency. "That does not mean no pay increases for public servants. It does not mean the Government will only pay what can be afforded," he said. The speech, billed as an "optimistic and realistic" assessment of the year ahead, was seen as a desperate attempt to restore party morale after yet another bad week for the Government.

Ministers have taken a battering both on taxation and the damaging report from the public accounts committee containing a catalogue of fraud, mismanagement and impropriety.

On the walkabout, page 2

How to survive rising tax and bills

Weekend Money, page 25



Boost in US growth gives British market a lift

BRITISH shares recovered dramatically yesterday afternoon after stronger than expected American economic growth boosted markets on both sides of the Atlantic (George Sivell writes).

In London, the FT-SE 100 Index, off 24 points in the morning, finished the two week trading account 20.1 points higher at 3447.4, although the index was 36.8 points down on last Friday.

The American economy surged at an annual rate of 5.9 per cent in the final quarter of 1993, its strongest wave of growth in six years. Inflation in America was revealed to be growing at only 1.3 per cent a year, the lowest since 1967.

Washington economists believe conditions are ideal for a slow, steady recovery and say that the private sector is the main force behind expansion.

Stock Market, pages 22,33

Bogus policeman was 'bored'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOGUS traffic policeman spent his weekends stopping motorists on the M25 and warning them about their driving because he was bored, a court was told yesterday.

Michael Mellor, 27, of Greenwich, South London, trailed motorists around the motorway at weekends for eight months. Among those he followed was a real policeman. Mellor admitted stopping five drivers and flashing his headlights at dozens more, magistrates were told at Guildford, Surrey.

At an earlier hearing Mellor pleaded guilty to impersonating a police officer and wearing clothing that would lead people to believe he was an officer.

David Gossip, prosecuting, said that when Mellor was stopped on October 16, he put on a black coat before opening the door of his car. But the officer who arrested him could see a blue police-style shirt underneath. Asked if he was a police officer, Mellor said "no"; asked why he dressed in police uniform, he replied: "It is something to do at the weekends. I get bored."

A search of his car revealed a cap with a chequered band and a badge reading "Nottinghamshire Combined Constabulary", Mr Gossip said.

Sentencing was adjourned for psychiatric reports. Mellor was released on unconditional bail until February 25.

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New hope for peace accord as Adams considers US offer

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GERRY Adams was last night considering Washington's offer to suspend the 20-year ban on him entering the US, on condition that he renounce violence and back the Downing Street declaration.

He was consulting US officials in Belfast yesterday as Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, voiced optimism that Sinn Fein would respond more positively to the Anglo-Irish accord.

The move followed unexpected agreement between Britain and the United States to increase pressure on Mr Adams.

After the first Anglo-Irish talks since the joint declaration on peace last month, the Northern Ireland Secretary said there were "rational grounds to hope that there will be a positive response".

He emerged from extended talks with Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, and appeared to offer wider scope for the clarification of the peace plan that Mr Adams has demanded.

Sir Patrick said: "I am not aware of any particular part of the document that we have been asked to clarify. I am not inviting a request for clarification, but it so happens that nobody has said, 'Look, we don't understand paragraph three', which is quite interesting.

"We will continue to make clear what the document does and does not do. We continue to make speeches that do just that. I do not believe there is anything between the two Governments on this and I certainly don't wish to see anybody under any genuine misapprehension as to what the declaration says."

Sir Patrick insisted that the declaration drawn up by John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, last month was not open to negotiation. "I am not prepared to unravel something that has taken as long as this has to put together, and which is clear and comprehensive. I will not gloss it and say it means something it does not say," he said.



Spring: more than six hours of talks yesterday

The ministers' six-hour meeting in Dublin coincided with the first of four Sinn Fein "peace commission" hearings, held in Londonderry yesterday, which is seeking to gauge reaction to the declaration within the Republican movement.

Mr Reynolds moved yesterday to keep the peace accord alive, urging London to be patient in waiting for the verdict of Sinn Fein. He disclosed that he would be responding this weekend to a letter from the Sinn Fein president seeking further clarification of the document.

Although he accepted that there could not be an "indefinite delay" in waiting for Sinn Fein's response, Mr Reynolds said: "Nevertheless the peace dividend is great, and if that demands some patience and waiting we are prepared to do that."

British politicians also urged Mr Major to back away from the implied deadline of the end this month which had been set for a Sinn Fein response.



A busy Scoot, the talking robot, finds time for a brief chat with Mr Major

Truancy watch halves crime

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JUVENILE crime almost halved during a pioneering neighbourhood watch initiative on truancy, according to research published yesterday.

Shopkeepers, police and the public responded enthusiastically to an appeal to look out for children absconding from school as part of a pilot project in Stoke-on-Trent. The findings will be used by John Patten, the Education Secretary, next week when he distributes government grants to support a national network of similar schemes.

David Portas, of the Centre for Police Management and Research at Staffordshire University, said arrests of children aged 17 and below had fallen 48.5 per cent in the four months since the scheme started in Hanley.

Provisional figures suggested a substantial reduction in the amount of crime committed by juveniles between 9am and 3pm. Thirty-seven offences were recorded compared with 78 in the previous four months.

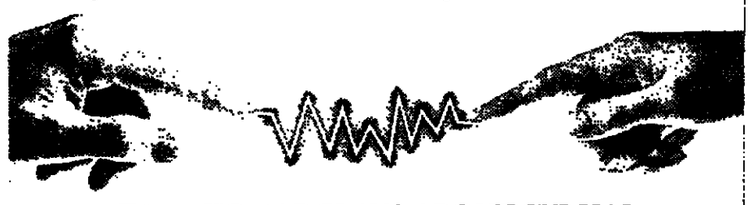
Under the scheme, modelled on neighbourhood watch, shop staff were asked not to serve children during school hours, education welfare officers toured shopping areas and a telephone hotline was available for people to report truants.

Mr Barry said strong support from the community was the reason for the scheme's early success. However, figures for school attendance are not yet available.

Mr Patten has repeatedly linked truancy with rising crime.

The first national truancy league tables, published in November, showed huge variations between schools, with one fifth of pupils absent from some at any one time.

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AD419

Lamont attacks Major

Continued from page 1

by Ginny Dougary's account of her meeting and discussions with Norman Lamont. We vigorously reject the charge that any of the quotations were invented."

In the interview, Mr Lamont is frank about his disenchantment with Mr Major, describing his censorship of the speeches as pathetic.

But last Thursday he surprised colleagues by supporting the Prime Minister at question time with a robust defence of the Government's economic record.

Friends of Mr Lamont had been concerned about his repeated outbursts against Mr Major, including recent criticism of his handling of Northern Ireland, which they warned would do little to help his chances back into the Cabinet.

In the interview Mr Lamont said Mr Major's moral crusade was "nauseating" and that he would never be caught "banging on about family values".

Referring to his dismissal as Chancellor last May, about which he still feels bitter, he said: "I would accept that the king is entitled to execute others in order to protect himself. But did it actually protect him? Since I left office the Government's standing and that of the Prime Minister have fallen."

Asked how he ranked his betrayal on a score of one to ten, Mr Lamont said: "Let me put it this way. I did feel that my own relationship with the Prime Minister, which had been a close one, ended. And it will not be put back together again. That's all I want to say about it."

Mr Ramadan Guney

A report in some editions (January 27) incorrectly stated that Mr Ramadan Guney, the businessman who acted as bail surety for Asil Nadir, had been ordered by the High Court to pay £650,000 by Monday. In fact, Mr Guney was granted a stay of execution pending an appeal. We apologise to Mr Guney for this error.

Major enjoys break from the real world

BY ALICE THOMSON

JOHN Major walked down a Yellow Brick Road yesterday and met talking trees, robots and lots of Munchkins. The Prime Minister was visiting Eureka! in Halifax, West Yorkshire, the museum designed to teach children about the world we live in.

Ignoring screams of "Thieving Tory scum" from local students, he took the arm of Vivien Duffield, chairman of the museum trust, and followed her along the path. Inside the museum he was greeted by a vast, naked Archimedes who promptly plunged into his bath, splashing the distinguished visitor. Walking across the Toyland town square Mr Major made the acquaintance of Scoot, the dustbin-based robot.

The Prime Minister stopped to talk to girls who were putting a car through a car wash. "Do you want to be a mechanic when you grow up?" he asked. The children, imported from local schools, remained mute. Either they had been warned of "stranger danger" or they preferred to reserve their career options.

Next stop on his tour was the Eureka! briefcase factory, where children on an assembly line were constructing briefcases out of egg boxes. After a few tentative quips about child labour, he wisely chose not to stand under the sign which said "Quality Control". Another no-go area was the hazard safety unit, which was demonstrating how to clean up spilt milk. Instead he opted for lessons on how to become a fire-breathing beast in the dragon workshop.

But the end of Mr Major's Yellow Brick Road was in sight. Outside, he was greeted by a freezing day, the press and two members of the Halifax Pensioners Society. "All we want is to live with a little dignity," George Merchant, 73, the society's president, told him. "Mr Clarke pretends we won't lose out but we're not senile yet." Mr Major could only smile.

We hurried on to a carpet factory where Mr Major was opening a new tufting division for Firth Carpets. "There are no frills on us. We just get on with it, no one here is allowed to get away with being average," David Melbourne, managing director, said.

Mr Major perked up: "David's touched on something profound, we won't be able to succeed with second-rate management, tools and ideas. Go Firth and conquer the world!"

In return they gave him a wooden weaving shuttle, resembling a giant banana.

Betting on Britain, page 1

Tories face new arms-deal claims

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

JOHN Major faces a barrage of accusations next week that Britain's overseas aid budget is being targeted at relatively wealthy countries which buy British arms.

As accusations intensified over alleged links between a £234 million aid package to Malaysia and defence contracts, the Prime Minister's opponents are about to widen the controversy to deals with other countries.

Yesterday Jack Cunningham, the shadow Foreign Secretary, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat Leader, opened a wider assault on the Government, seizing on figures that indicate increased foreign aid to countries who buy British defence equipment.

It emerged yesterday that a GEC company won arms contracts worth about £500 million as a result of a deal signed in 1988 by Margaret Thatcher and Dr Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia's prime minister, twice as much as was previously thought.

A GEC Marconi spokesman confirmed last night that they won a £400 million contract to build two frigates equipped with air-defence radar systems for the Malaysian navy in 1992. They have also been contracted to supply communications systems worth up to £100 million.

Lord Weinstock, chairman of GEC, and Tan Sri A.P. Arumugam, a Malaysian businessman, who owns more than 50 per cent of GEC Malaysia, were two of the key figures behind bringing together British industrialists and Malaysian government officials.

On Wednesday, the Commons foreign affairs select committee announced an enquiry into alleged links between a £234 million aid package for the Malaysian Pergau dam project and the granting of arms contracts to British companies.

Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs will next week increase pressure on the Government over statistics which show that Indonesia, Oman, Jordan and Thailand are named as having benefited from increased overseas aid and are among the leading Third World purchasers of British arms.

Critics of the Government's handling of the £2.1 billion overseas aid programme claim that ministers have used the fund as a "sweetener" to attract arms sales.

The Labour Party will publish figures next week which it claims will illustrate a trend towards aiding some of the wealthier Third World nations that buy British arms.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunnel man denies clash of interest

The Government came under renewed attack over standards in public life last night after it emerged that the new chief planning adviser at the Department of the Environment advises a company that is bidding for a lucrative Channel tunnel contract.

Professor David Lock, whose company has been advising Blue Circle in its application to develop the international passenger station at Ebbsfleet, Dartford, starts work part-time at the department on Tuesday. Labour accused the Government of a blatant conflict of interest.

Mr Lock's company, David Lock Associates of Milton Keynes, will continue to advise Blue Circle on the Channel tunnel project. Mr Lock said he would take no personal interest in this aspect of the company's work. "There has to be a careful division."

Gummer out of order

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, exceeded his powers when he altered the guidelines for local government reform last November, the High Court ruled yesterday. Mr Justice Jowitt ruled that Mr Gummer was wrong to include a sentence favouring unitary authorities — as opposed to retaining district and county councils — in guidelines issued to the Local Government Commission for England, which is redrawing the local authority map. The judge ordered the sentence to be struck out of the guidelines.

Controls stay on bank

The Government yesterday ruled out the idea of an independent Bank of England but left open the possibility of greater autonomy for the bank on monetary policy. Stephen Dorrell, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, made this clear during a Commons debate on a Bill proposed by Nicholas Budgen, MP for Wolverhampton South, which would have given the bank increased powers and accountability. Labour also refused to support the Bill, which will make no further parliamentary progress.

Editor fined on last day

Kelvin MacKenzie was fined £1,000 for contempt of court yesterday on his last day as editor of *The Sun*. The newspaper was fined £5,000 in the High Court for publishing extracts from doctors' reports used in private court proceedings over the welfare of a child whose mother, an auxiliary nurse, had Munchausen's syndrome by proxy.

Charity thief jailed

A Birmingham shopping centre manager was jailed for six months yesterday after admitting stealing money from a charity for dying children. Birmingham Crown Court heard that Hugh Roberts, 49, of Bromsgrove, set up a scheme to collect money for the Acorn Children's Hospice Trust but was caught by security guards taking about £800 for himself.

Cardiff the best buy

Tokyo is the most expensive place to go shopping and Cardiff is the cheapest, according to a survey of 16 cities worldwide. The British Tourist Authority study ranks London as the tenth most costly city for hotels and restaurants but finds it less expensive than New York, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Paris, Rome and Sydney.

Tired doctor's fatal error

A cancer patient died after a doctor who had been on duty for 32 hours injected a drug into his spine by mistake. An inquest into the death of Percy Billington, 60, at Gillingham, Kent, recorded a verdict of misadventure. Dr Nasreen Samad, who has resigned from St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, said she was tired at the time of the error.

Carving a niche

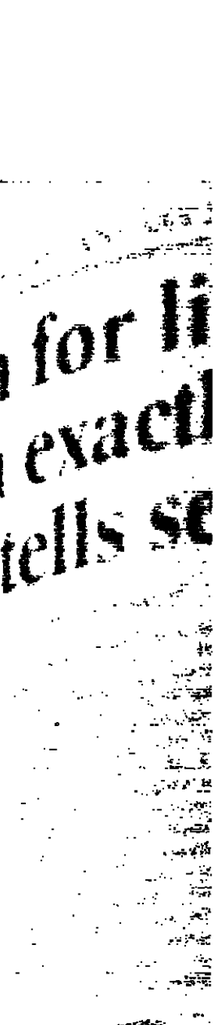


Tim Llewellyn, left, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Europe, is to become the new director of the Henry Moore Foundation, the charity which owns the sculptor's work, it was announced yesterday. Mr Llewellyn, 46, takes over from Sir Alan Bowness, 66, the art historian and former director of the Tate Gallery, who has held the post since 1988. He will retire at the end of next month.

Drunken man bit dog

A man who bit his dog in Basingstoke town centre was put on probation for 18 months yesterday. Donald Biscombe, 33, of Southampton, admitted cruelty and two charges of being drunk and disorderly. He also pleaded guilty to actual bodily harm for punching a boy. Basingstoke magistrates banned him from owning an animal for three years.

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judge tells se



Boy's parents blame
faulty safeguards

FA trusts
to rebuild

Prison for life must mean exactly that, judge tells sex killer

BY LIN JENKINS

COLIN Hatch, who sexually assaulted and murdered a boy aged seven while on parole after committing five previous sex attacks, was yesterday jailed for life.

Hatch, 21, of Finchley, north London, killed Sean Williams last July in a carbon copy of one of the essays he wrote while in custody which detailed his sexual fantasies.

Judge Nina Lowry, sentencing him at the Old Bailey, said: "Life imprisonment should mean what it says, namely imprisonment for life. In my judgment you should never be released back into the community while there remains the slightest danger of you reoffending."

Sean's parents, Lynn and John Williams, who are amicably separated and run The George public house in Finchley, hugged each other as cheers in the public gallery greeted the verdict.

Hatch had denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. The jury reached its verdict in less than three hours.

The couple knew nothing of the danger posed by a man who lived so close to their home. Although most parents were aware that Hatch had a criminal record of attacks on children, Mr and Mrs Williams were new to the area and unable to warn their son.

Others had previously warned that, given Hatch's record of sexually assaulting children, he was bound to kill. Judge Lowry told him: "Three years ago when you were before a court for offences committed against young boys, the view of the medical authorities differed and consequently the court had no power to order you to be detained indefinitely.

"It is plain to me that when at liberty you are highly dangerous to the public. Medical opinion is you are likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. It is not possible today to envisage when you could be safely released from prison."

Sean was on his bicycle when his mother drove off on an errand. He called to her: "Love you mum." Within 25 minutes he was dead, having been lured to Hatch's tenth floor flat, sexually assaulted and strangled. His body was then wrapped in a plastic bin liner and left in the lift.

Writing found in the flat which Hatch had shared with his mother since being released from prison 11 weeks earlier contained a sexual fantasy identical to the scenario of Sean's murder.

Hatch had served less than half of a three year sentence for an attack on a boy aged eight when he was let out on parole. His lawyer and a psychiatrist had already warned a court that he might kill in the pursuit of his deviant sexual urges.

Dr Anthony Wilkins, a psychiatrist, told the hearing two years ago that Hatch was a menace to the public and should be sent to Broadmoor top security hospital. "My conclusion was then that he was highly dangerous and likely to pose a serious threat to the safety and life of the public," Dr Wilkins said.

When Hatch was paroled, it was on condition he attend the Portman Clinic for treatment, but two meetings were cancelled and a third rescheduled for three days after Sean was murdered.

Hatch himself confided in a psychiatrist: "I have had a behavioural disorder since I was 11. If the worst happens I will not live to be 25. I will commit suicide or be killed by a vigilante. I'm attracted to boys like a magnet. I can't stop myself."

Det Supt Duncan Macrae, who headed the enquiry into Sean's murder, said yesterday: "My own personal view is that if Colin Hatch is released he will kill again."



Hatch: murdered boy while out on parole

Boy's parents blame faulty safeguards

THE parents of Sean Williams said yesterday that the authorities had to take some of the blame for their son's death (Lin Jenkins writes). They named the parole board, probation service and doctors who treated Colin Hatch.

Sean's parents, Lynn and John Williams, questioned why doctors who visited him 40 times after a previous charge of assaulting a child did not pick up on the perverted fantasies he had written.

The probation service, which had the task of supervising Hatch on his release on parole 11 weeks before Sean's murder, said there was nothing in his behaviour to justify recall to prison. A report of an internal review of the case has been sent to the Home Office.

John Walters, head of Middlesex probation service, said he was satisfied that his staff provided a proper level of supervision, except in the lapse in his referral to a psychiatric clinic, when an officer had failed to get Hatch an appointment in advance of his release.

The probation service has introduced procedures to improve risk assessment and a comprehensive training programme for officers responsible for supervising sex offenders. The service also now requires that, where a parole licence includes a psychiatric requirement, an appointment is made before release for the parolee to be seen by a psychiatrist within 14 days of leaving prison.

Mr Walters said that although Hatch claimed that he had spoken with his probation officer about his fears that he would reoffend, he did not do so in a way that would have justified recommending his recall to prison.

Britons driven to risk death in Bosnia

The men and women whose convoys save countless lives do a dirty, hazardous job impressively well, reports Robert Crampton



David Court, 42, the convoy leader, and his wife Freda. He was shot in the chest

THERE are two sorts of aid worker in the former Yugoslavia: those who like driving spotless Toyotas around Split or Zagreb, and those who prefer to wrestle mud-splattered Scanias, DAFs and Land Rovers over the hills of central Bosnia.

Like Paul Goodall, who was shot dead yesterday, those men and women who belong in the second category are some of the most impressive people I have met. They do a dirty, dangerous job and they do it very well.

The job is about driving. Paul Hutchings and John Hutchinson work for Feed The Children. Earlier this winter, they gave me a lift in their Scania truck from Split to Vitez, a 120-mile journey along mountain roads cut and maintained by the Royal Engineers, Mr Goodall's old regiment. It is a tribute to the engineers that the journey only takes ten hours, which is plenty of time to get to know somebody.

Mr Hutchings is 33, a former policeman and Territorial Army soldier. He swore most of the way to Vitez, played heavy metal music too loud, yet dealt diplomatically and politely with the checkpoint guards who stopped us every few miles. He exuded toughness and competence.

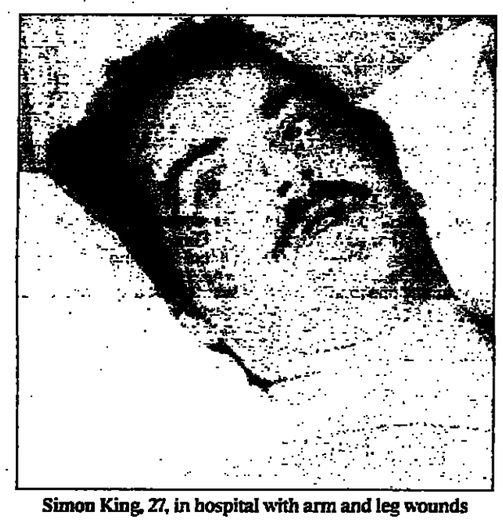
However, he will forgive me for saying that he had a heart as soft as the snowdrifts piled up beside the road. When I asked him why he did it, he pointed to one of the hundreds of children who line the convoy route, begging for sweets, food, anything, and said: "*That's* why, poor little bastard."

Mr Hutchinson is 65, a former paratrooper and, before that, a soldier in the King's African Rifles in Kenya. He set up the Feed The Children operation in Vitez, 15 miles from Zenica. He is a religious man, kind and solicitous, a real gentleman. His motives were much the same as Mr Hutchings'. Mr Hutchinson even had kind words for the teenage boys who like to blowpipe hypodermic needles at passing aid trucks in Prozor.

I do not suppose Paul Goodall was that different from these men. They share a background in uniform, for one thing. It is no coincidence that many of the British aid workers are, like Mr Goodall and his wounded colleagues, David Court and Simon King, former soldiers. The skills required in central Bosnia are those of the driver, mechanic, engineer and radio operator.

The personal skills are just as important. Bosnia requires endless patience in the face of bureaucracy and an easy familiarity with military people and hardware. It also requires the ability to deal with fear. Mr Hutchinson had been in Stanleyville in the Congo in the early Sixties, after that, "a few crazies running around with guns" in Bosnia is fairly small beer.

But the crazies are proliferating. Seeing Zenica, you can see why. Its economy has regressed to the medieval within 12 months and is now based on barter, charity, smuggling and theft. The only people in Zenica who have anything worth stealing are soldiers and unarmed foreign aid workers, and it is their vehicles that are prized above all. Larry Hollingworth, who runs the UN relief effort in central Bosnia, said that local bandits "already see the convoys as meals on wheels". Mr Goodall's death shows that the bandits want the wheels as much as the meals. Having murdered him, there will probably not be much of either around for much longer, as relief operations have been suspended. I do not think Mr Goodall would have wanted that.



Simon King, 27, in hospital with arm and leg wounds

Bosnia shootings, page 1

Gulf veteran dies in convoy attack

Continued from page 1

talks on Bosnia with Lord Owen, the European Union peace negotiator, said he was "profoundly shocked and distressed" by the attack.

The Prime minister and Lord Owen said that every effort now had to be made to persuade the Bosnian warlords to inject much more urgency and determination to reach a negotiated settlement. The continuation of the war would only cause even more suffering.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said that Mr Goodall's killing was "a tragedy and a crime" and showed the risks that soldiers and civilian drivers were taking. "They are saving many thousands of lives. If we are doing this we must make sure we are doing it in the best possible way." He said a decision would have to be taken over the next few weeks on whether the current balance between the military and humanitarian missions could be improved.

Mr Goodall had spent 12 years in the Royal Engineers and commanded a mine-clearance troop section in the Gulf War. He was the eleventh foreigner to be killed working for the UNHCR in the former Yugoslavia.

Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Development Minister, said: "I am horrified and deeply distressed that this should happen to three men who were doing such sterling work in dangerous circumstances in an attempt to help the suffering people in the former Yugoslavia."

The UNHCR spokesman said the gunmen were last seen speeding through a Bosnian army checkpoint in the stolen vehicle, heading east towards Kakanj. Other UNHCR convoys were running yesterday but the International Red Cross, the next largest aid agency in Bosnia, suspended operations in Zenica and will review the situation tomorrow.



Rumours were circulating in Vitez that the shooting of Mr Goodall was the work of foreign Mujahidin, intent on destabilising the environment to all UN personnel, thus allowing more fundamentalist influence to enter the vacuum.

In New York, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, said that he would not hesitate to use Nato air strikes in self-defence in Bosnia if any UN peacekeepers come under deliberate attack.

Spring deadline, page 15

FA trusts streetwise Venables to rebuild football dreams

BY SIMON BARNES

EVEN as a player, Terry Venables, who took over the England football team yesterday, always had aspirations beyond kicking footballs. He was the first player to become a limited company.

As a manager, he had ambitions beyond running the team. The dream reached its fulfilment as he became chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur: from pitch to boardroom, from half-time lemon to Havana cigar. Then the dreams started collapsing.

Sacked from Spurs, Suing the Spurs chairman, Alan Sugar, for wrongful dismissal. Suing *Panorama* for libel in response to allegations about dodgy finance. Spurs under investigation by the Premier League for the aforementioned alleged dodginess.

In short, Venables looked a dodgy bet for any one keen on respectability. And the Football Association has always been keener on respectability than results. That was the system that brought us the elocution-lessoned Alf Ramsey, the manifestly decent Bobby Robson, – and the squeaky-clean Graham Taylor. What then, has changed the FA's thinking?

It was the FA chairman Sir Bert Millichip who gave it away at yesterday's announcement. He talked of attending the World Cup draw in Las Vegas fast month — and feeling overwhelmed with humiliation. "England were poor relations," he said.

In the wake of the trauma of non-qualification, enter Venables. Not entirely respectable, but clearly a *professional*. Possessing abundant footballing street-cred. He even knows abroad; he won the Spanish league with Barcelona. But above all, he looks the part: in pure footballing terms, he is perceived as a man of substance.

His managerial qualifications are good, if not as unarguably wonderful as some would suggest, but there is one absolutely rock-solid and unimpeachable argument in favour of Venables and his appointment. It is this. Last May he was sacked from his job, and threatened with exposés that, if proved, would have been ruinous. His life seemed in tatters. Now he rules English football. If that doesn't show a man who has — thus far — led a charmed life, I don't know what does.

The first question Napoleon asked of any man was this. "Has he luck?"

No further questions, your honour.

Photograph, page 1
Waiting over, page 40

THE SUNDAY TIMES



Picasso: special issue plus free print offer

To mark the opening of a major exhibition of Picasso's work at the Tate gallery, The Sunday Times tomorrow focuses on the great artist, in The Culture section. Features by Waldemar Januszczak, Frank Whitford and John Richardson explain what made Picasso the leading artist of the 20th century and the effects his tangled personal life had on his work.

PLUS Sunday Times readers are offered a free exclusive print of Picasso's 1925 painting Bust And Palette, one of the works in the exhibition which has never been seen in Britain before

PLUS Sunday Times readers are invited to a private viewing of the exhibition

The Times free Picasso print

A second free Picasso print, of the 1932 painting Still Life: Bust, Bowl And Palette, is also available to readers. See The Times on Monday

'Abusive' waiter wins job claim

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A WAITER who threw coins at customers who left inadequate tips, and at other times added what he felt was his due to their bills, yesterday won his claim for unfair dismissal.

Maurice McParland, 31, of Finchley, north London, who worked at the Café Delancey in Camden, was alleged to have thrown £1.50 back at a woman diner telling her: "That is not enough. You need more for me. You keep it. You obviously need it more than me."

After the customer had rung to complain, the waiter was made to send a free bottle of champagne to her office.

An industrial tribunal heard that Mr McParland, employed by the cafe for over two and a half years, was on a salary of £93.50 a week but received another £150 a week in tips.

The cafe owner, Tatiana Wilson, 45, told the hearing in central London: "He stole money from customers and was rude and abusive to everyone." Managers could not control him and warnings were ignored.

The tribunal, in central London, upheld Mr McParland's claim on the ground that the cafe had not followed correct procedures, but Mr McParland was deemed to have contributed to his dismissal by being frequently insubordinate. His compensation payment was reduced by a third to £900.

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Vengeance attack

Jurors clear mother who killed man in sex case

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who stabbed to death a shopping centre Santa Claus whom she accused of raping her four-year-old daughter was yesterday cleared of murder.

The mother, aged 40, who cannot be named for legal reasons, sobbed in the dock as the jury at Leeds Crown Court found her not guilty after a second day of deliberations.

The jury also cleared her of manslaughter and acquitted another daughter, aged 20, of perverting the course of justice.

John Lockwood, 65, bled to death after the mother allegedly walked away saying: "That will teach him to mess with my kid."

Paul Worsley QC, for the prosecution, told the court the woman had turned "judge, jury and executioner" because of her anger when sexual assault charges against Lockwood were dropped.

During the trial the court was told that the mother, from Wakefield, kept a diary of hate in the weeks running up to the killing. In January last year she wrote: "He is dead when I see him."

Another entry said: "The only reason I have not killed him is because I would end up inside and my daughter would be worse off." A third said: "As God is my witness I want to kill him slowly and painfully. I want him to suffer a million pains."

She is also alleged to have told a friend during police investigations: "If he walks, he will be walking with a knife between his legs. I am not going to kill him. I will get him where it hurts."

The court heard that in a telephone call to Mr Lockwood, she told him: "You pervert, you are going to prison. You know what they do to people like you when they are in prison. I hope you suffer." When she heard that, through lack of evidence, Mr Lockwood was not to face charges of rape and indecent assault against her daughter, the woman confronted him as he cowered in his car outside his home in Wakefield last May.

She told the court that she had accidentally stabbed him in the chest when she tried to smash the window with a knife, claiming that after shattering the glass her swing followed through. She then aimed three or four more stabs at his groin before walking off and throwing the weapon into a garden.

Mr Lockwood staggered out of the car, collapsed in the hallway of his house and died shortly afterwards.

During interviews with police, the girl claimed Mr Lockwood, who had worked as a Father Christmas at a shopping centre in Wakefield, had sexually abused her.

During the nine-day trial the court was told that there were allegations of sexual abuse against Mr Lockwood in the 1980s.

Simon Lawler QC, for the defence, said the woman was betrayed by the justice system after she "played it by the book" by reporting her daughter's claims to police as soon as they were made in January last year.

Mr Lawler added that although the woman threatened Mr Lockwood over the telephone and by letter she had hoped he would be prosecuted and sent to prison and did not seek to confront him. The court was also told that her daughter suffered recurrent nightmares and became increasingly difficult to control after her experiences.

A woman neighbour aged 26 had pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice and was sentenced to 80 hours' community service.

Neither the mother nor her daughter would comment after the case.



Det Sgt Andy Crawford and Sgt Dixon, played by Peter Byrne and Jack Warner, rarely had a loose tie in *Dixon of Dock Green*



Sunglasses are part of the uniform for TV's Spender

Police get dressing down for uniform of jeans and tattoos

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

GONE are the days when Fabian of the Yard and his colleagues were as well known for their sartorial elegance as their skills of detection. After complaints about earrings and tattoos, scruffy pullovers and torn jeans, the Metropolitan police is compiling a dress code for plain-clothes officers.

Thirty years ago, no Yard man would be seen without his snap brim trilby, dapper suit, immaculate raincoat and highly polished shoes. The picture is very different today.

Perhaps it is because the £225 annual clothing allowance for detectives no longer goes far, but plain-clothes officers have become so casual that a detective in Brixton has complained about poorly dressed colleagues.

In *The Job*, the Met's internal newspaper, Det Con Timothy Hinks says: "In my career I have worked as a West End detective and across south London suburbs. I have always maintained my appearance and have sadly seen standards of some of my colleagues drop to unacceptable standards.

"I have seen an increase in the wearing of earrings and tattoos (I accept that this may be an operational necessity in some cases). I have noted that ties and top buttons are not always done up and that a brighter variety of suit is favoured by some officers. I have seen casual shoes worn under suits and even jumpers worn in the place of jackets."

Fellow officers, however, say they deal with a different class of criminal these days and have to blend into their surroundings without causing suspicion. Det Con Andrew Innes, another south London officer, said: "If I wore a suit while walking through a council estate it would be obvious I was a policeman.

"I wore a suit once while meeting a contact in a pub and he told me never to wear it again."

Back at the Yard, where senior officers (clothing allowance £278) still favour the type of dress Mr Hinks hankers after, the dress code is being redrafted. Currently the Yard instruction manual states that all officers must have a "clean and smart appearance".

Mr Hinks may find his fashion niche in the royalty protection group. Officers receive annual clothing allowances of £550 to £870 and are rarely seen out of collar, tie and discreet suit.

Tree men lead royal minders a dance

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN SYDNEY

HEARTS missed a beat. Breath was held. Supt Colin Trimming leant forward on his seat, his body a coiled spring ready to protect his charge. The assailant was not only disguised as a palm tree in head-to-toe body paint, he was pointing a 10ft spear at the heir to the throne.

The palm tree made eye contact with the Prince of Wales. The room was hot, dark and crowded. The wooden spear quivered in the hand. The political protest this time was not the plight of Cambodian boat people, but the fact that over 200 aborigines have died in the white man's jails in the past five years.

Fortunately, although the political point was real enough, the assault was entirely imaginery. Nevertheless it was an indication of how sensitive the Prince's security has become that his protection team should stiffen their sinews during a dance display in an Aboriginal cultural centre in Sydney.

The dance was graphic, and ended with an Aboriginal shown hanged in his cell. Djakapurra Munyarryun, the dancer with the spear, said: "I went straight for Charles and looked him right in the eye. He's a pretty cool customer, but I might have frightened him a bit." The Prince appeared to take the matter in his stride.

Aborigines invited to the event were less happy; they had hoped to talk to the Prince but found he was surrounded by minders and functionaries.

Norm Newlin, an Aboriginal poet, was furious. "You've got Abo policemen keeping Abo people out. This is an insult to our community." He said he had wanted to raise with him the issue of Aboriginal deaths in custody.

The Aborigines did, however, present the Prince with an urn filled with an ancient remedy made from steamed gum leaves with herbs, said to be good for cuts and bruises and as a love potion.

It was not the moment for the Prince to test such claims. Instead he went off for a discussion with Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, on architecture and urban planning.

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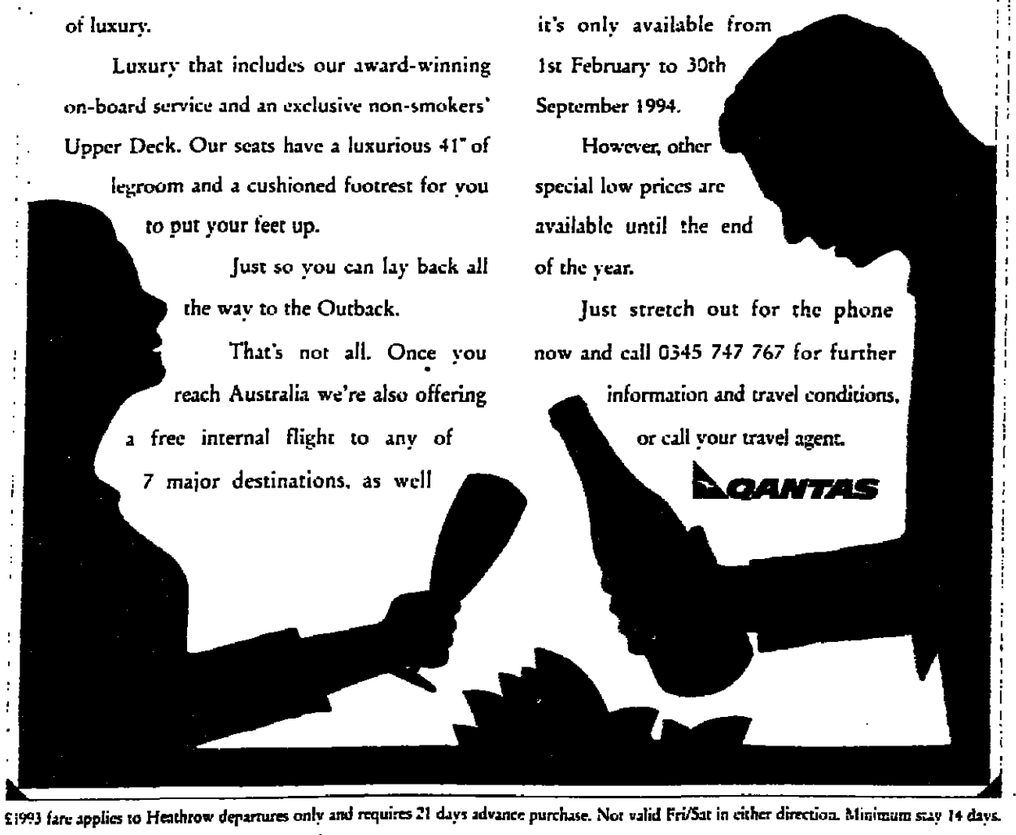
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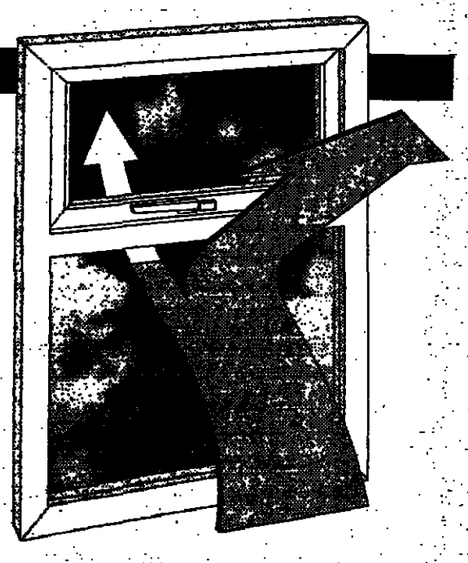
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Westminster enquiry

Tories blame rough justice for suicide of councillor

BY IAN MURRAY

WESTMINSTER'S district auditor was accused yesterday of acting like a revolutionary tribunal, after the suicide of a former councillor implicated in the "homes for votes" case.

Leading Conservatives demanded changes to the way district auditors carry out investigations after some former colleagues of Dr Michael Dutt made it clear that they blamed the conduct of the gerrymandering enquiry for his suicide.

"Interrogations are carried out with all the fervour of a revolutionary tribunal," Miles Young, the council leader, said. "This is not a normal system of British justice and can be very gruesome indeed to a sensitive person." He said the law needed to be revised so that those under investigation had a better chance of defending themselves and were not at risk of being pilloried by a provisional report that they could not contest. Mr Young said that Dr Dutt, former chairman of the housing committee, who shot himself on Wednesday evening, had been obsessively worried about the investigation even before the publication of the provisional report by John Magill, the district auditor. "It had been going on for such a long time and had become such a huge national issue. When the report appeared everyone assumed he was guilty even though he had never been able to present his defence. He just went home, locked himself away and brooded."

When police found the doctor's body at his home in St Albans it was surrounded by pages from the report, which described him as "recklessly indifferent" and said the council's £21 million loss as a result of the housing policy "was caused by his wilful misconduct".

Dr Dutt, 43, felt that any attempt to overturn the findings of the report were hopeless, Mr Young said. "He faxed me two letters for the auditor and on one of them he scribbled a note saying, 'Please will you do something to save my reputation.' He felt that his name had been wrongly dishonoured and his life had been smashed."

Dame Shirley Porter, former leader of the council, who was also implicated by the report, said: "The strain he must have felt from the insupportable attacks against him must have been absolutely dreadful. The district auditor acted like a judge and jury ... The whole way this is done is a totally ridiculous process. The auditor is supposed to come to a provisional view, but he has expressed it in such savage terms that everyone assumes we have been in court and were guilty." A spokesman for the Audit Commission said the investigation was carried out with absolute propriety. "Obviously this is a tragedy and we wish it hadn't happened. But we have a statutory duty to follow the letter of the law rigidly and if we did not do so we would be held accountable. If people want to change the law that is up to the politicians."

> "When the report appeared everyone assumed that he was guilty"

The district auditor can investigate council spending under the terms of the 1982 Local Government Act. After publishing a provisional report those named in it can submit oral and written evidence in their defence before a final report is completed. Dr Dutt, in an open letter to Mr Magill, said he had decided not to defend himself because it would "consume resources and energy I do not have while attempting to do my medical work".

Dr Dutt, who was unmarried, hoped to become an MP and had stood unsuccessfully for Leicester South. "He was highly intelligent and hard working," James McCabe, the constituency agent, said.

Letters, page 17



Magill: "Acted like judge and jury"



Dutt: "Felt his life had been smashed"

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BRITISH AIRWAYS



BOB COLLIER

Pallbearers and congregation leaving Holy Trinity church yesterday after the funeral of Brian Redhead

Village remembers Redhead the friend

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRIAN Redhead, the voice of *Today*, was cremated yesterday after a funeral service for those who knew him as a family man, friend and neighbour.

The world at large will have a chance to pay its respects to this singular broadcaster at a memorial service, possibly at St Paul's, in the spring. Yesterday's ceremony attended by 300 people in his home village of Rainow in Cheshire was a personal affair.

Michael Green, there as controller of Radio 4, could speak with affection of a man he had known for over 20 years. The only representative from Westminster was Nicholas Winterton, the Conservative MP for Macclesfield, who was also a personal friend.

Mr Redhead's *Today* co-presenters, Peter Hobday and John Humphrys, and other colleagues at the BBC were present, as well as people from his local community.

His coffin had stood overnight in front of the altar at Holy Trinity parish church in keeping with a local tradition. It was the same place that the body of his son Will, 18, had rested almost 12 years ago after his death in a car crash in France. It was also where Mr Redhead was confirmed into the Church of England the following year.

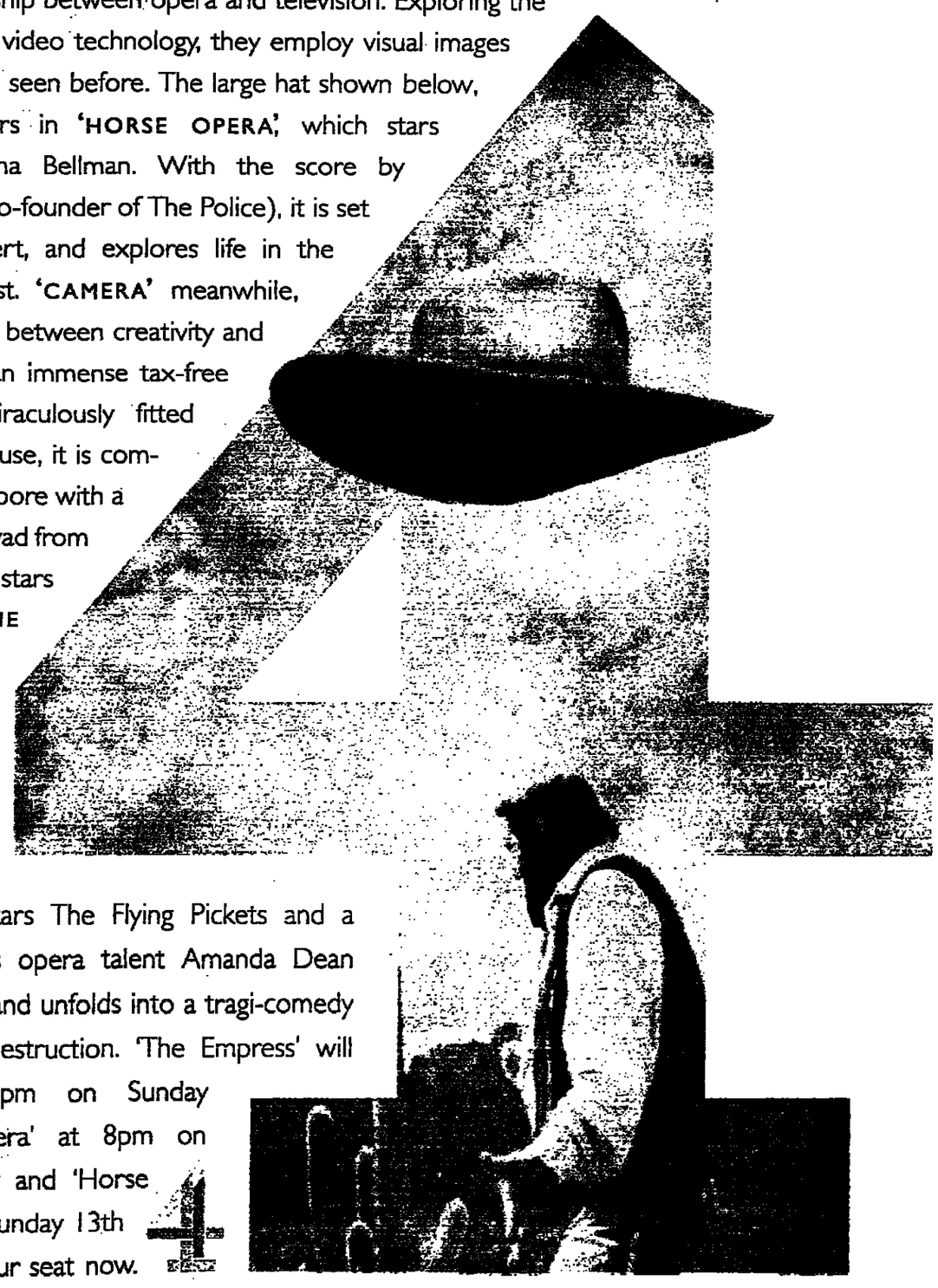
A lesson from Revelation was read by Mr Redhead's daughter Abby. Then the Rev Leslie Lewis prompted laughter with a story of how Mr Redhead had once stepped in to read his sermon after the vicar had lost his voice. "He read it word for word in his own personal style. I did not recognise it. There was no danger of falling asleep in my own sermon."

As he spoke, Mr Redhead's wife Jenni held the hands of her two sons, James and Stephen.

He added: "It is my privilege to conduct this service not so much for Brian the broadcaster and journalist, but for Brian the family man. Brian the member of our community and especially Brian the one who worshipped here."

A new season of operas.
Featuring bright young opera singers, famous personalities and a very large hat.

Beginning 30th January, Channel Four brings a series of operas to the small screen. But these are no ordinary productions. Specially commissioned by Channel Four, these unique musical events effectively redefine the relationship between opera and television. Exploring the very cutting edge of video technology, they employ visual images that have never been seen before. The large hat shown below, for example, appears in 'HORSE OPERA,' which stars Rik Mayall and Gina Bellman. With the score by Stewart Copeland (co-founder of The Police), it is set in the Arizona desert, and explores life in the American Wild West. 'CAMERA' meanwhile, explores the struggle between creativity and bureaucracy. Set in an immense tax-free haven, which is miraculously fitted within a suburban house, it is composed by Anthony Moore with a libretto by Peter Blegvad from Slapp Happy and stars Dagmar Krause. 'THE EMPRESS', the first in the series, was written by David Gale and composed by Orlando Gough, and concerns a matriarchal society. It stars The Flying Pickets and a Gladiator, as well as opera talent Amanda Dean and Valerie Morgan, and unfolds into a tragi-comedy of lust, greed and destruction. 'The Empress' will be showing at 8pm on Sunday 30th January, 'Camera' at 8pm on Sunday 6th February and 'Horse Opera' at 8pm on Sunday 13th February. So book your seat now.



4

800 drink-drivers face never-ending road ban

BY TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

■ The legal campaign of a convicted drink-driver has highlighted the powers of civil servants to withhold a licence

MORE than 800 motorists banned for drink-driving offences were prevented from regaining their licences last year after being classified as high-risk offenders.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency refused, because of their continuing misuse of alcohol, to return their licences even though they had completed sentences handed out to them by magistrates' courts.

The agency insists that before being allowed back on the road they must submit to medical tests to prove they are not heavy drinkers or dependent on alcohol. Its right to withhold licences is to be challenged in court by a Surrey building company director who claims he is being punished twice for the same offence.

Leonard Poole, 44, of Thornton Heath, was fined £500 and banned from driving for 18 months after being convicted in August 1992 of driving with 2½ times the legal amount of alcohol in his blood.

When, shortly before Christmas, he sent off £20 to have his licence returned, he was told he had to undergo an independent medical assessment by a Civil Service appointed doctor.

He paid £70 for the examination, during which he completed a questionnaire about his drinking habits and provided a blood sample.

Last week, he was told his licence application was being refused as the tests made on his blood were "consistent with probable continuing misuse of alcohol in the absence of other clinical explanations".



Poole: denies continued alcohol abuse after ban

Mr Poole has been told he can make another application in 12 months if he can show during that time the levels of chemicals in his blood have returned to "normal".

His own doctor has told the DVLA Mr Poole has no history of alcohol abuse.

Mr Poole said yesterday: "I intend to take this to every court in the land. I totally agree with the drink-drive laws. I was caught and rightly punished. It made it very difficult for me to run my business and I would never drink and drive again."

The DVLA has been able to order high-risk motorists to take a medical test since 1983. The procedure is automatic if an offender has registered a blood-alcohol limit of 2½ times the legal limit, when a driver is convicted twice in ten years or if a conviction results from refusing to provide a specimen for analysis.

Magistrates at Colchester, Essex, have already refused an appeal by John Aveston, 59, a former government scientist, who was also ordered to take a medical test after applying for his licence to be returned.

He lost his licence for the second time in 1990 when he tried to drive his car after an argument with his wife.

Dr John Irvine, medical officer to the DVLA, told the court his blood contained an enzyme that indicated he was a chronic drinker and could be a danger to other road users.

He said: "The Secretary of State can only come to one conclusion — that it would be in the public interest to refuse this licence."

Mr Aveston said: "The situation is absurd. It is like telling a house breaker he is not going to be released at the end of a prison sentence because he might burgle again. I am not an alcoholic or even a heavy drinker."

The AA and the RAC said they backed the tests.



Katherine Maidens at a press conference yesterday recalling her husband's murder

Widow tells of killer's 'laughing eyes'

BY RICHARD DUCE

A WOMAN yesterday described how a killer with "laughing eyes" shot her husband in front of their four-year-old son.

Katherine Maidens was distraught as she appealed at a press conference to the public for help in tracking down the killer of her husband Terence, 34.

As police try to find a motive for the contract-style killing, they disclosed a clue: the gunman who shot Mr Maidens, a packaging executive, twice at point-blank range at his home in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, on Wednesday evening, left a spent cartridge of which only 2,000 have been made for wildfowl hunting.

Mrs Maidens, 26, said: "I went to the front door and looked through the glass panel. I saw a crash helmet and I thought it was a man delivering pizza who had come to wrong house.

"I opened the door and looked into the man's eyes. He had laughing eyes.

"It did not scare me because he seemed to be laughing. But then I looked down and saw he was carrying a gun and I began to feel very scared.

"I shouted out my husband's name and started walking backwards down the corridor with this man following me. Then I don't know if I fell or if he pushed me to one side, but I dropped to the floor and lay there looking at Terry.

"I heard two shots, one directly after the other. I looked to where my son was to see that he was all right. Then I looked for the gunman but he was gone."

She said her son Lee, who witnessed the murder and has been sympathetically interviewed by police, does not understand what has happened to his father.

The couple had been married for ten years. Mrs Maidens said of her husband, who worked for Limpac Mouldings in Birmingham: "Terry was an ordinary bloke. He idolised his children." She could not think of any reason for the killing.

Det Supt Tony Bayliss, leading the enquiry, said Mr Maidens may have known his killer. "Terry may have recognised the man who came to kill him. He stood up and looked straight at him but there was no expression on his face and he did not say a thing."

Mr Bayliss appealed for anyone who sells the Elex Alphamax 0.3 cartridge, the type found at the scene of the murder, or anyone who knows someone who uses them, to contact the police.

Wife fears missing man is dead

BY BILL FROST

AS POLICE yesterday stepped up their search for a man they suspect might have been abducted, his wife spoke of her fear that he has killed himself.

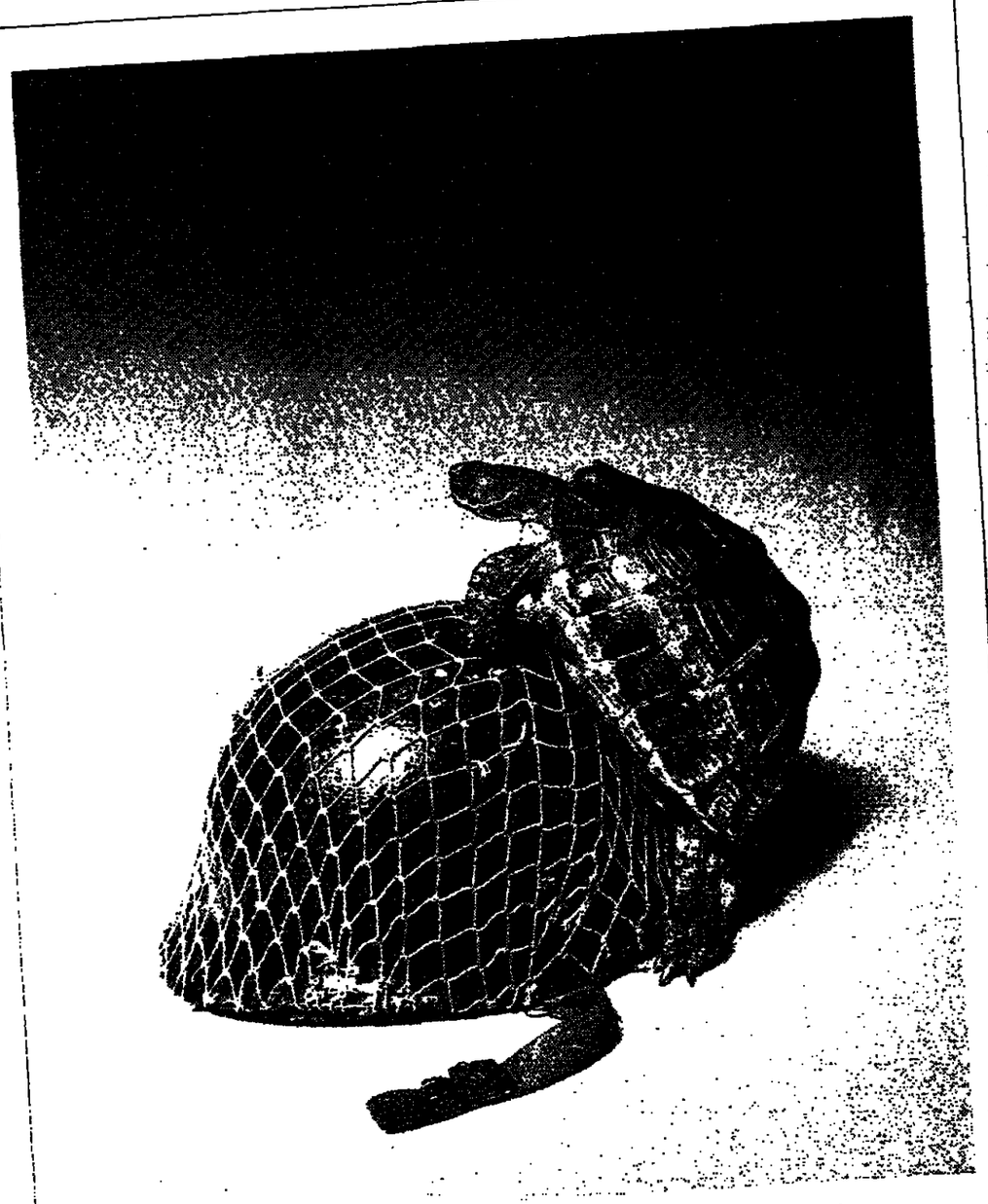
Grant Price, 43, an accountant, disappeared last Saturday while on a shopping trip with his son David, 9. David said he had left something behind and his father returned to the car. The boy told police that soon afterwards he saw what he believed was his father's car leave with three people inside.

About two hours before Mr Price disappeared, a 20-year-old man was stabbed in the leg in nearby Fareham by two men who tried to take his car.

Isobel Price, 39, the missing man's wife, yesterday dismissed the abduction theory as "totally unbelievable". Mrs Price said that her husband had become increasingly tense about his job with Southampton City Council over recent weeks.

Hampshire police disclosed yesterday that the missing man's car was found in Fratton, Hampshire, at about 6.30pm on Thursday. There was no sign of Mr Price. About an hour after he disappeared, two withdrawals were made from his bank account. On Monday his wallet, some personal papers and items from his car were found.

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Waldegrave defends public servants

By Michael Dynes and Edward Gorman

■ The Public Accounts Committee's report on waste and mismanagement has thrown a spotlight on the role played by quangos

THE Government moved yesterday to defuse the dispute over allegations of public-sector corruption and waste in the wake of a report by the Public Accounts Committee.

William Waldegrave, the public service minister, said that far from depicting widespread mismanagement and graft, the report showed that Britain's public service was one of the least corrupt in the world. "Sometimes things do go wrong. It is absolutely right that the Public Accounts Committee should be drawing attention to these things," Mr Waldegrave said, adding that the report endorsed his view that "proper concern for the conduct of public business ... can be combined with effective programmes for promoting economy and efficiency."

On Thursday the committee listed 26 cases where it found evidence of public business having been improperly conducted. They included the waste by the Wessex Regional Health Authority, while Sir Robin Buchanan was its head, of more than £20 million spent on introducing a computerised information system that had to be abandoned in 1990. In another case, the National Rivers Authority's management of its move to new headquarters at Almondsbury, Avon, led to risks of "fraud, corruption, and a failure to obtain value for money".

The committee's report has highlighted the increasingly important role played by quangos in the public sector, some of which were singled out for criticism in the committee's report.

☐ What is a quango?

Quango stands for quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation. This term has been replaced by "non-departmental governing body" (NDPB). These have a role in Government but are not government departments or part of one. Examples include the Equal Opportunities Commission, the British Council and the Natural History Museum.

NDPBs do not include bodies in the public sector which have separate accountablity to central Government.

Examples of these are nationalised industries, public corporations, health authorities and hospital trusts, self-governing schools, police authorities, training and enterprise councils, local authorities, and universities and colleges.

☐ How many quangos are there?

There were 1,389 quangos in 1993. Experience suggests there will be more before long.

☐ When did the term first appear in general usage?

In the 1970s, during the Callaghan years.

☐ Are there more quangos now than there have ever been before?

In 1979 there were 2,169 quangos. There are now been reduced to 1,389, according to official statistics. But after a cull during the Thatcher years, they seem again to be on the increase.

☐ What is the relationship between quangos and central Government?

Quangos operate at arm's length from Whitehall. But responsibility for them lies with the appropriate departmental minister. They decide how much independence each quango has, and set the framework in which they operate.

☐ How much money do quangos spend?

The Government spends over £12 billion a year on quangos. However, some generate some or all of their income.

☐ What sort of people are appointed to quangos?

Anyone with expertise in a particular field can be appointed to a quango. Each government department has its own procedures for these appointments. In addition, the Cabinet Office has a public appointments unit which maintains a database of potential candidates. Some responsible for the appointments have boasted of never knowingly appointing one Labour supporter to the quangos in their patronage. However, the Government insists that the appointments procedure is entirely non-political.

☐ How are they audited?

Most quangos are either directly or indirectly audited by the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog. There are, however, some which are audited by private sector accountants.

☐ Are quangos particularly prone to corrupt practice?

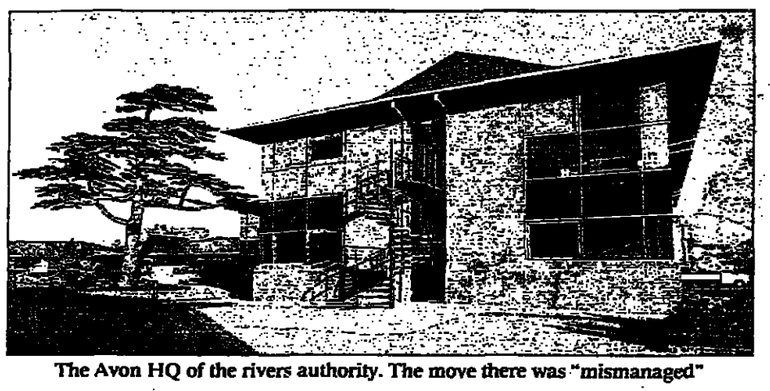
No, they are generally free of corruption and mismanagement. The Public Accounts Committee cited 25 recent examples of wasted resources, money improperly spent, financial discrepancies, mismanagement, corruption and fraud. But these are exceptions rather than the rule.

☐ What does Labour think of quangos?

☐ Labour would seek to make them more accountable, less secretive and open to waste and corruption. The party believes many quangos are staffed by Tory placemen and have been used for patronage.

☐ What do the Tories think of them?

Tories see quangos as offering more efficiency, choice and potential for innovation than a large, bureaucratic public sector. They recognise that training and accountability are important.



The Avon HQ of the rivers authority. The move there was "mismanaged"



Buchanan: former head of criticised health authority

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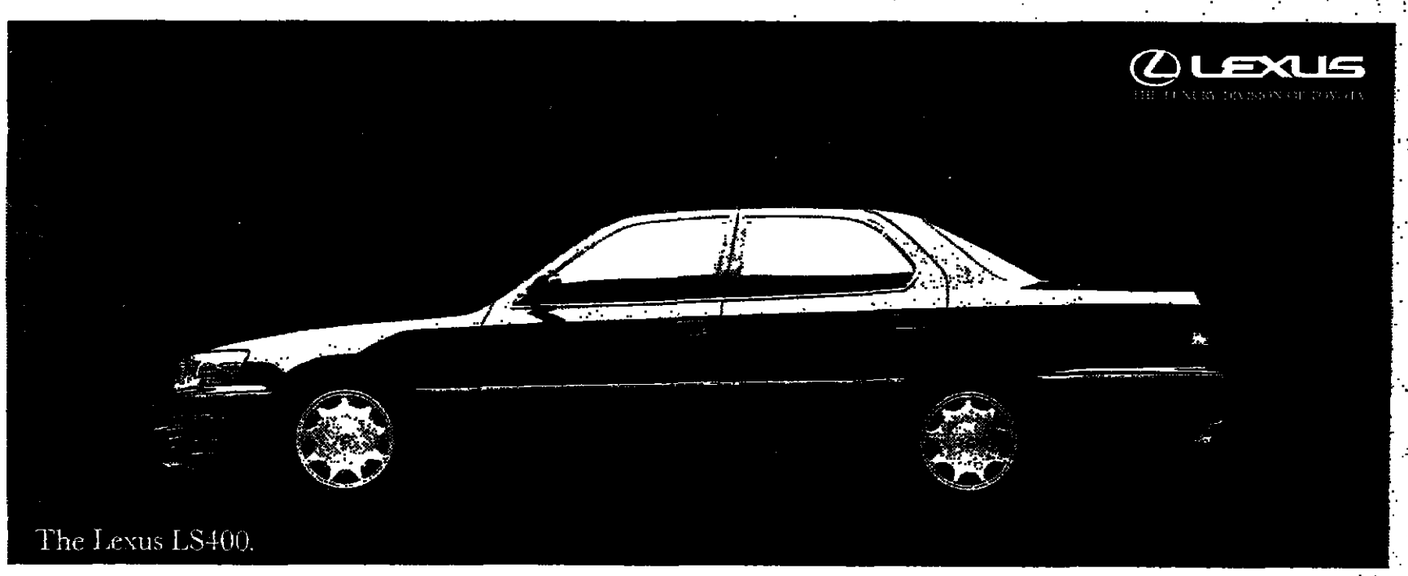
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Widow dies in skiing accident

A British woman was killed when she fell over a bank into a coppice while skiing in Austria, it was disclosed yesterday.

Barbara Green, 56, a widowed mother of two from Aldridge, West Midlands, was skiing 5,000ft above the resort of Zell-am-See on January 16.

Her son Michael, 33, who was at the resort when she died, said his mother was an experienced skier and had been skiing with a friend when she went out of control. She was airlifted to hospital but was dead on arrival from chest injuries.

Woman killed in stolen car

A woman aged 41 died yesterday when a stolen car in which she had accepted a lift overturned.

Police, who later questioned two teenagers, said Mrs Agnes DeCruz, of Cardiff, did not know that the car had been stolen.

Pier crash

Six early morning commuters were saved by safety buffers when their former London Underground train ran through the stop zone at Ryde pier on the Isle of Wight. The driver suffered a leg injury.

Fire probe

A fireman had to put on a surgeon's gown, hat, mask and boots to trace the source of a burning smell while an operation was in progress at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Murder charge

Brian Makin, 28, of Weymouth, Dorset, was remanded in custody by the town's magistrates yesterday accused of murdering his four-month-old daughter Samara.

Leper study

Skeletons of 44 men who died at a leper hospital in Chichester, West Sussex, in the 12th century are being studied by an expert on medieval diseases.

Kidnap man

A man who burned himself to death after freeing a teenage girl he had kidnapped was identified yesterday by police as Paul Stewart Pettifer, 28, of Littlestone-on-Sea, Kent.

River body

A body found in the River Tyne yesterday was identified as that of Graeme Stanton, 54, a former editor of the Newcastle *Evening Chronicle*.

Rodent alarm

Lights flashed and bells rang when a pet hampster that escaped 18 months ago chewed through burglar alarm wiring at the home of Liza and Simon Crewe in Plymouth. The hampster is still on the run.

Spender wins his plagiarism dispute

By Alison Roberts
Arts Reporter

SIR Stephen Spender has won his battle to ban the sale of a book which he claims plagiarises his 1951 memoir *World Within World*. It is understood that the American novel at the centre of the dispute, David Leavitt's *While England Sleeps*, may undergo substantial changes to appease the 84-year-old poet.

Lawyers acting for Penguin, Mr Leavitt's publishers, and for Sir Stephen are close to resolving the dispute without going to court. A deal will be announced early next week.

Sources suggest that the agreement may involve pulping old copies of *While England Sleeps*. It has been agreed that no new copies of the first version will be printed.

Sir Stephen claims that parts of *While England Sleeps* bear a striking resemblance to parts of *World Within World*. And, he says, Mr Leavitt's book is a "distorted adaption" which "trivialises my work".

The main characters in Mr Leavitt's novel are said to be similar to Sir Stephen and Jimmy Younger, the pseudonym the poet uses in his autobiography for a lost love. But Mr Leavitt's work also includes explicit love scenes that are anathema to Sir Stephen.

ADVERTISEMENT

Army investigation re-unites famliy

"FOR 50 YEARS PETER THOUGHT HE WAS AN ONLY CHILD". But a secret had been kept from him since his birth. An aunt confided to his wife that Peter had five brothers and sisters. Their mother had died during childbirth.

Without his knowledge, Peter's wife wrote to The Salvation Army's Family Tracing Service and asked if they could help re-unite the family. Armed only with names and an address from half-a-century ago, the Army engaged in five weeks' painstaking research.

The effort was rewarded with the discovery of a brother called James. Before long, Peter was put in touch with his whole family bringing new dignity and a sense of belonging. This was brought home to Peter by all the new cards he received on his next birthday.

Every year, The Salvation Army takes on 5000 new cases helping to trace missing relatives and restore family relationships. If you would like to help the Army unite families, turn to page 15

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Corporation of London welcomes proposal that two thirds of churches be put to other uses

Sacrifice of Wren's City masterpieces splits Church

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE City of London was divided last night over its response to proposals to close some of its most beautiful churches.

Some clergy and churchmen pledged to fight proposals to close 24 churches, some of them designed by Wren, as places of regular Anglican worship.

But others hailed the findings of the Templeman Commission as inevitable and appeared to accept the recommendations to cut the number of active churches from 36 to 12, and the number of parishes from 22 to four. There was a promise that none would be demolished.

The Corporation of London welcomed the report. Insiders indicated last night that funds could be made available to convert some churches to secular use, such as concert halls or libraries.

The way has already been cleared by the corporation for a few million pounds to go to St Paul's Cathedral, the subject of the Lord Mayor's appeal this year. The corporation is financing the cleaning of St Giles Cripplegate at a cost of £150,000, and has earmarked funds to finance the archaeological preservation of what remains of St Ethelburga, the medieval church destroyed by an IRA bomb last year.

Among those most angered by the report was the Rev John Paul, rector of two of the affected churches. He said: "The report stinks. I am defending my corner with a vehemence that they have yet to feel."

The commission, chaired by Lord Templeman, has proposed that Mr Paul's main church, St James Garlickhythe, headquarters of the traditionalist Prayer Book Society, should become a "satellite" guild church in the new parish of St Giles Cripplegate. It consigns his second church, St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, to a "reserve" list of 24 churches, expected to be converted to some other use or mothballed if none can be found. Both are considered to be architectural masterpieces, built under Wren's supervision.

Mr Paul said: "We have to keep in mind that these are just recommendations. But putting St James in with St Giles, on the other side of the City, indicates to me that they do not know what they are doing." His two parochial church councils are meeting on Thursday to co-ordinate their opposition.

The Rev Oswald Clarke, priest-in-charge of St Mary Abchurch, also consigned to the reserve list, said: "We are not pleased and will oppose this. It would mean no incumbent, no church warden, no church council, no services."

But Michael Cassidy, chairman of the Corporation of London's policy and resources committee, said: "I regard this as an opportunity, not a disaster story. These grade-one listed buildings could be redeployed for purposes relevant to the City population."

Launching his report at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday, Lord Templeman said it would be "unthinkable" to demolish any churches, even should no alternative use be found and the building closed.

He said one reason the churches must be left standing was because "they contrast with the hideous new buildings which are disfiguring the city and now stand largely empty". Tourists came to the City to see the churches, not "some of the monstrosities within a stone's throw of St Paul's Cathedral", he said.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 15
At Your Service, Weekend, page 6

JAMES MORGAN



The interior of St Mary Aldermary, one of the City of London churches on Lord Templeman's reserve list that could be mothballed

We must free ourselves to meet real needs

Credo

David Hope

The 38 churches within the City of London have a unique role and status. They are buildings of great tradition with quaint names steeped in history. Where else would you find a St Andrew Undershaft, or a St Andrew by the Wardrobe?

After my enthronement as Bishop of London in 1992, I asked Lord Templeman to chair a special commission on the role and future of the City churches. The population has shifted. Only 5,000 people live in the City today and most of them reside in the Barbican. More than 300,000 commuters arrive daily and a significant number make contact with a local church. There is clearly a need for good leadership, fellowship, and a coherent strategy for renewing the ministry and mission of the Church of England in that part of London.

Lord Templeman reported the findings of the commission yesterday. The report is a lively, realistic and helpful contribution to the ongoing debate about how the Church can best meet the needs of the people, organisations and institutions of the City. A period of reflection and debate is now called for. We will all have opinions and it is important that people have time and space to respond to the recommendations. There will be no hasty or rash decisions.

For the Church is the people of God. When the first Christians gathered to share in the eucharist there were no buildings, faculties, pastoral measures, tower appeals or parochial church councils. St Luke, writing in the Act of the Apostles, emphasises the simplicity of the first Christians' actions: "These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers." (Acts ii, 42) People gathered to worship God. They came together to celebrate the Good News: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

People are once again seeking a deeper meaning to life — looking for answers to the perplexing questions of the modern world. For today's Church realistically to reach out into the wider community in which it is set, it needs to be aware of its resources and priorities. In the Diocese of London I have implemented Agenda for Action — a mission strategy for the next five years. Parishes have been responding positively by assessing their priorities and looking at the resources available to them.

The presence of the Church of England in the City of London needs to be based on a realistic assessment of needs and priorities as well as a genuine sensitivity to history and tradition. Of course people will feel a strong allegiance to this building or to that church.

I will no doubt be inundated with views and opinions about the best way forward now that the Templeman Commission has suggested a mission strategy for the City churches. But I remain committed to the notion that the Church's chief task is to offer Good News to people wherever they are.

The strength of the Church lies in its parochial system. It is there where people (not buildings) are working to the glory of God — building each other up in fellowship and bringing people into the Kingdom of God. In the Magna Carta there is the hope: *Quod Anglicana ecclesia liberia sit* — that the English Church shall be free. This is my hope and prayer, that we free ourselves and harness our resources to respond to the real needs of people today.



Dr Hope: "There will be no rash decisions"

Clergy look to union strength in jobs fight

BY OUR RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY in the Church of England are considering joining a trade union to protect their employment rights.

The report of the Templeman Commission, published yesterday, which recommended closing two thirds of the churches in the City of London, follows a pattern seen throughout the Church, which is struggling with financial difficulties and poor attendance.

Clergy have responded with plans to ally themselves to the strength of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, Britain's fifth biggest union with 552,000 members.

The Rev Simon Cox, vicar of Disley, Stockport, recently contacted the MSF about the possibility of setting up a clergy association within the union. Dr Cox, of the Word and Spirit Fellowship, an organisation of paid church workers, said: "It is impossible to imagine ever going on strike. Most of us do 80-100 hours a week. We do not go into this job as a career move."

The Church's financial difficulties have led many dioceses to cut clergy numbers. An increasing number of parishes are being given a "priest-in-charge" instead of a vicar when the incumbent retires or moves. Some dioceses have implemented job cuts of up to 10 per cent. If this pattern is followed throughout the 44 dioceses, the Church could lose 1,000 of its 11,200 clergy.

More than 30 Anglican clergy in England are now unemployed. Despite doing their full training, some have not been ordained because there was no job for them.

Dr Cox said he was particularly concerned at the centralisation of power in the hands of bishops. He knew of two cases where a bishop had attempted to sack a clergyman without going through the proper procedure, using information gained confidentially in a pastoral context. Dr Cox said the two men survived what turned out to be groundless accusations only because they had the security of their freehold.

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Group 4 inmate killed by binge on seized liquor

By Paul Wilkinson

■ Escort guards mistakenly gave alcohol to a remand prisoner, then left him for two hours because they thought he was asleep

A REMAND prisoner who died after drinking almost a litre of spirits could have been saved if he had received medical attention, an inquest was told yesterday.

Ernest Hogg, a father of two, was discovered in a coma in a Group 4 prison custody van almost two hours after he should have been returned to jail from a magistrates' court appearance.

Guards who checked him thought he was asleep and made another trip, but a forensic scientist said there would have been clear signs of drunkenness.

Mr Hogg, 38, was sick and choked after drinking the equivalent of 35-40 single measures in just over an hour, an inquest jury at Beverley, Humberside, was told.

Group 4 custody officers escorting Mr Hogg and other prisoners from the Wolds remand jail, Humberside, to a magistrates court had mistakenly given them confiscated mineral water bottles in which alcohol had been concealed.

The mistake occurred during a lunch break at Rotherham Magistrates' Court in South Yorkshire. Officers from the Wolds, Britain's first privately run prison, had suspected that three water bottles sent by post contained alcohol and had put them them in a bag marked "Do Not Issue".

But the inquest was told that the prisoners asked for the bottles, believed to contain rum or vodka, and were given them. The mistake was realised 70 minutes later when the bottles were seized back.

The men were driven back to the Wolds where, because of a disturbance, only five of the six prisoners were handed over.

The crew drove on to Hull and when the van returned to the Wolds one hour and 55 minutes later, Mr Hogg was found slumped in his compartment.

Dr Alexander Forrest, a pathologist, told the inquest that if Mr Hogg had been seen by a doctor before he got into the van at the magistrates' court or had been given proper medical care at any time until he was sick and choked, he might have lived.

Mr Hogg, a lorry driver from Bowery Falls near Forfar, Tayside, died in Hull Royal Infirmary four days after the incident last May without regaining consciousness.

Christopher Milroy, a Home Office pathologist, said he had suffered irreversible brain damage caused by oxygen starvation due to vomit inhalation.

Mr Milroy said that although Mr Hogg had drunk a lethal amount of alcohol, death was not inevitable. There could be three scenarios where death was "possible, probable or inevitable.

"In this case it was only possible rather than probable. His life could have been saved if he had been removed from the van before he vomited and received the appropriate medical care."

Michael Hammond, a forensic scientist who analysed a blood sample from Mr Hogg, said it showed an alcohol level five-and-a-half times the legal drink-driving limit.

Guards who checked Mr Hogg believed he was sleeping, but Mr Hammond told the inquest: "I think there would have been obvious signs of drunkenness."

Mr Hogg had been in custody since his arrest last February on charges of involvement in the importation of amphetamines worth £1 million.

His wife Marlene, 34, told the inquest that her husband was not a heavy drinker. She refuted suggestions that he was depressed by his arrest and being held in custody. "He had everything to live for and was looking forward to returning home."

The inquest began on Monday but reporting of the evidence was forbidden until yesterday, when the trial finished of four men arrested with Mr Hogg. The inquest is expected to continue next week.

Wartime veterans take a flight to nostalgia

PETER TREVINOR



Bob Pratt and the Dakota. On the eve of D-Day, he broke his arm in a parachute jump from a sister aircraft

Dakota revives D-Day memories

By John Young

ON THE night of June 5, 1944, Sergeant Bob Pratt of the Fifth Parachute Brigade was dropped into Normandy as a member of the task force ordered to capture and defend the vital Pegasus bridge across the Caen canal.

"We came under fire from the ground and the pilot had to go in a second time," he said yesterday. "Unfortunately I forgot to let go of my static line and it tore my arm out of its socket.

"I landed a long way from where I should have done and I was all on my own. Although my left arm was broken I could still use a sten gun. I reached the main road and there were the commandos coming along it under Lord Lovatt."

Almost 50 years later, Mr Pratt, 71, from Bournemouth, was making a nostalgic flight aboard a Second World War Dakota. On the night before D-Day, no fewer than 850 of its sister aircraft were lined up on airfields across southern England to ferry the airborne contingent of the invasion force.

In brilliant sunshine yesterday, Dakota G-AMPZ, known as Papa Zulu, lumbered down the runway at Bournemouth airport and out across Poole Bay, over the great naval fortress of Portland and back above the green hills and fields of Dorset, which half a century ago were bristling with airfields and army camps.

Papa Zulu was too late for D-Day but saw service with the RAF in Canada and later at Lyneham, Wiltshire.

After being "demobbed" in March 1952, it had a varied civilian career as a DC-3 with West African Airways, with British United Airways, where it was named *City of Dublin*, with an oil company in Indonesia, with a charter airline in Lebanon and with other airlines in Iceland, Britain and Ireland.

Since 1990 it has been owned by Air Atlantique of Coventry, which has a fleet of some 40 vintage aircraft, including ten Dakotas.

Papa Zulu will spend this summer carrying 36 tourists at a time on sightseeing flights over the D-Day embarkation points in southern England and across the Channel to Normandy.

There will be three flights a day from Monday to Friday between May 9 and July 31, costing £35 for a half hour flight over the South Coast and £99 for a 90-minute trip to Normandy. For information telephone 0203-307566.

The inspiration for Bond's foe sells up

By A Staff Reporter

THE cricket commentator Henry Blofeld yesterday sold his collection of 150 first editions by Ian Fleming and P.G. Wodehouse at Christie's for £41,767.

Legend has it that while Fleming was writing *Thunderball*, he had trouble thinking of a name for the head of SPECTRE. It is said that Fleming went into Boodles, his gentleman's club, to look through the membership list for a suitable name. He noticed the names of three members of the Blofeld family — Henry, his father and his brother — and looked no further.

Nick Rowley, the owner of an investment consultancy business, who bought the collection of Bond first editions and some early Wodehouse novels, said: "The fact that Blofeld signed all his Bond books was a bonus.

"His voice is legendary. I've been a cricket fan and a Bond fan all my life. For the two of them to come together like this was too good a chance to miss."

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Adams out

MICHAEL Adams has been eliminated from the Fide Championship.

After overpressing in game eight of his match against Boris Gelfand of Belorussia, the Englishman's position collapsed and he succumbed overall by the score of 5 points to 3. With the departure of Adams, no English players remain in the Fide Championship cycle.

White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Michael Adams
FIDE Candidates, Game 8, Wijk aan Zee January 1994
Benoni Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	c5
3	d5	e6
4	Nc3	exd5
5	Nxd5	Nxd5
6	Qxd5	d6
7	e4	Be7
8	Bc4	0-0
9	Qh5	Be6
10	Bxe6	fxe6
11	Ng5	Bxg5
12	Bxg5	Qa5+
13	c3	Nc6
14	0-0	Rae8
15	Bh4	Qb6
16	Bg3	e5
17	Rfb1	Qc4
18	Rb1	b5
19	Qg4	Qe6
20	Qe2	Rb8
21	a4	bxa4
22	Qa6	Rb6
23	Qxa4	Qb3
24	Qxb3+	Rxb3
25	Rad1	Rxb2
26	Rxd6	Rfb8
27	h3	R8b6
28	Rd5	a5
29	Bxe5	Rb1+
30	Rxb1	Rxb1+
31	Kh2	c4
32	Bd6	a4
33	Rf5	h8
34	Rf8+	Kh7
35	Ra8	Rb3
36	e5	Rxc3
37	e6	Black resigns

Winning move, Weekend page 18

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Hosokawa saves face by diluting reform package

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

■ Japan's week of turmoil ended in a government deal with the opposition. Political changes may pass the Diet now but the compromise weakens their impact

JAPAN'S political leaders ended a week of turmoil by reaching a compromise on a package of political reforms last night, just hours before it was due for a final vote in the Diet.

Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, who was elected last August on a pro-reform platform, had staked his career on getting the Bills passed before the parliament's session ends at midnight tonight. The proposed laws, which impose tough penalties on political corruption, curtail political funding and change radically the electoral system, cleared the Diet's lower house last November, but were rejected in the upper house last week. Some members of Mr Hosokawa's ruling coalition broke ranks to vote against the reforms, forcing the embattled leader to broker a compromise with opposition leaders and prepare for another vote.

The uncertainty led to rumour-mongering in Tokyo as the stock market seesawed and politicians argued on television. On Thursday, Mr Hosokawa made a passionate appeal for public support, an unprecedented step for a Japanese leader. One senior bureaucrat said yesterday that Japan was beginning to look like a banana republic.

Under Mr Hosokawa's free-wheeling style, and a new era of unwieldy coalition politics, the rigid, discreet manoeuvring that characterised government in Japan has given way to unbridled freedom of expression with senior bureaucrats, businessmen and ordinary citizens giving their opinions in the media. The growing spirit of glasnost, Japanese-style, pointed to the necessity of compromise.

The last-ditch agreement, cobbled together in a meeting between Mr Hosokawa and Yohei Kono, leader of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party, modifies provisions on political funding and distribution of electoral seats. The compromise may ensure the Bill's passage through the Diet and Mr Hosokawa may have saved his job, but the agreement considerably weakens the reform package and may even render it useless by removing its original provisions for implementation within six months. The question of a time-frame is likely to be left for debate in later sessions of the Diet.

Another concern is breakdown of party discipline. "We don't trust everything to our leader," Yoshinobu Shimamura, an LDP Diet member, said last night. "It's not right for just the bosses to decide."

The compromise, however flawed, is looked on with relief in business circles concerned about the long-delayed budget and an overdue package of economic stimulus measures. Alongside other bleak economic indicators, the unemployment rate was reported to have risen to a seven-year high point of 2.9 per cent in December.



Kono: cobbled together last-minute agreement

Cairo battles over treasures

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THOUSANDS of years after their creation, some of the most famous artefacts of ancient Egypt have become a source of fierce controversy.

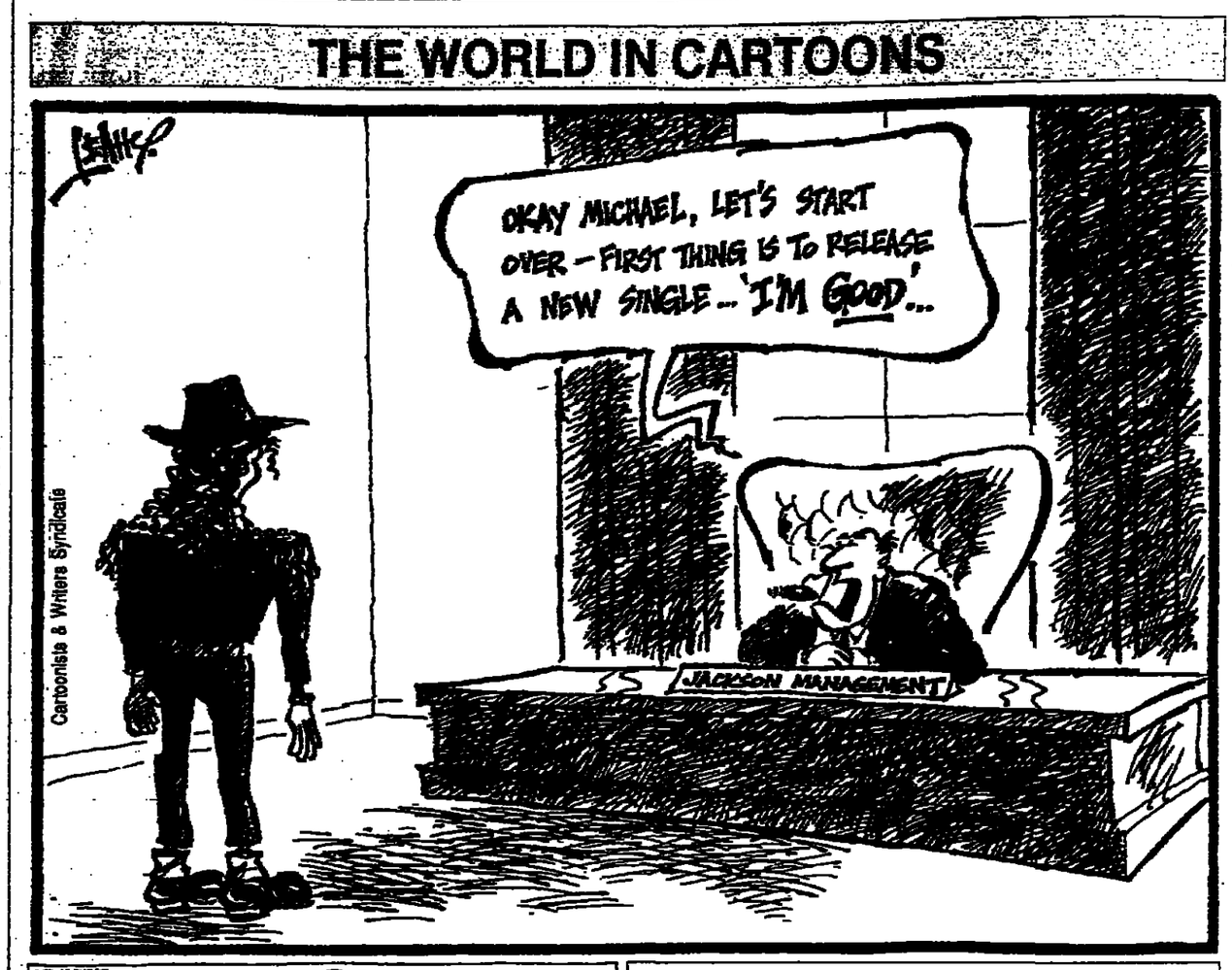
The Ministry of Culture is to contest a ruling by the Cairo Administrative Court that the display of a collection of antiquities, including the head of Cleopatra, in Japan is illegal and they should be repatriated immediately.

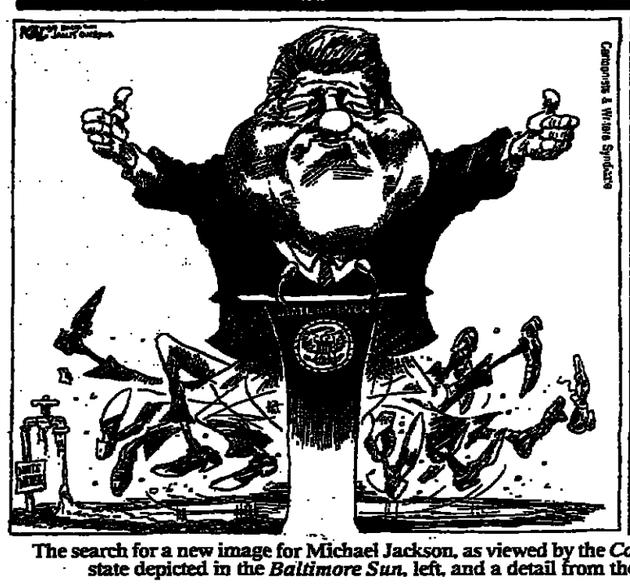
The move coincides with a decision by the Egyptian Museum here to put back on display next month 13 of the 27 royal mummies kept from view since a 1980 decree.

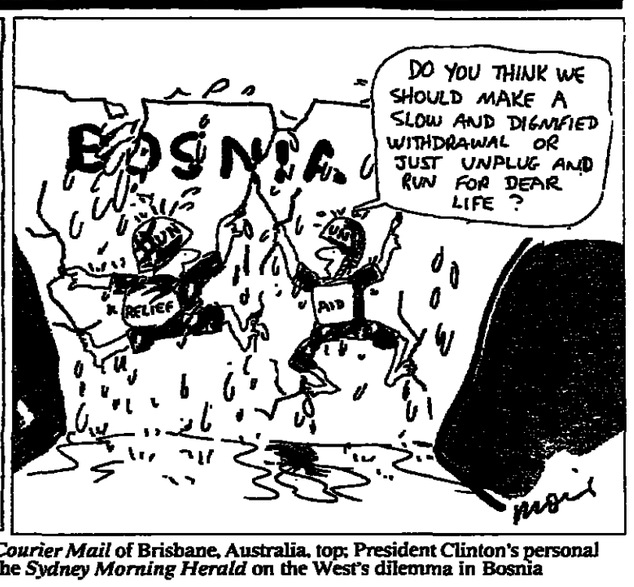
The legal battle over the 72-item exhibition "The Ancient Queens of Egypt" is causing embarrassment to the government. The court's decision was pronounced last Saturday, only 24 hours after Farouq Hosni, the Culture Minister, had presided over the exhibition opening in Tokyo. The court ruled that the exhibition of Egyptian antiquities abroad is illegal, casting doubt on the future of all travelling exhibitions, such as the Tutankhamun treasures seen by 1.6 million in Britain in 1972.

The court case was initiated by Nimat Ahmed Fouad, an archaeologist, who said: "No judge in Egypt would have agreed to sending these rare items abroad and exposing them to the possibility of damage. What makes things worse is that the agreement was with a commercial, and not a governmental, body."

THE WORLD IN CARTOONS







The search for a new image for Michael Jackson, as viewed by the *Courier Mail* of Brisbane, Australia, top; President Clinton's personal state depicted in the *Baltimore Sun*, left, and a detail from the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the West's dilemma in Bosnia

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South African serial killer boasts 'many more to follow'



The body of a child, believed to be among at least 11 victims of a serial killer, being moved from bush near the Mitchells Plain township outside Cape Town

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A NATIONWIDE manhunt for a serial killer was launched in South Africa yesterday after the discovery of the bodies of six young boys near Mitchells Plain, outside Cape Town, on Thursday. This brought to 11 the number of bodies found in the area over the past ten days.

Of the latest victims most had been strangled, sodomised and buried in shallow graves. A note found on one body read: "Many more to follow."

The discovery of the victims followed a search in dense bush for a man who was said to have grabbed a schoolboy near a primary school. Friends of the boy saw the attack, chased the man and fought him off with stones before they stumbled across the partly decomposed bodies.

The bodies of three 12-year-old boys were discovered in the area earlier this week. Two more — one an 11-year-old and the other still unidentified — were found last week.

About 200 police, backed by armed troops and helicopters, were drafted in on Thursday to search for the killer, believed to be the notorious Station Strangler, so called because he lures young male victims from train stations. He is thought to be responsible for the death of nine other boys since 1986.

The killings have struck fear into the Mitchells Plain community. Some residents, armed with clubs, pangas and sticks, ventured into the bush to hunt the killer. Local schools may close until the killer is found.

Peter Roman, chairman of the Pan Africanist Congress in Mitchells Plain, said residents would converge on the area today to cut and burn the bush where the bodies were found.

Mr Roman said the PAC would proceed with its planned community mobilisation despite police warnings.

While welcoming community involvement, the police said that untrained searchers could destroy valuable clues and have urged vigilante groups not to take the law into their hands. Senior officers yesterday met residents to discuss the progress in the hunt and ways of ensuring the safety of their children. The police have announced that they will set up a task force of psychologists and criminologists to find the killer. "This case ranks as one of the world's worst," a senior police source said. "We are putting everything into it."

Police found a pair of false teeth near two of the bodies. They hope the discovery could provide a clue to the killer's identity and said there were other leads.

Hernus Kriel, the Law and Order Minister, visited Cape Town yesterday for a briefing and to visit the scene. He has announced a 250,000 rand (£50,000) reward for information leading to the killer's conviction.

He said investigators from Interpol may be flown to South Africa to assist the investigation. Mr Kriel told residents the police would do everything possible to track down the killer. "We will not hesitate to get the best people here, no matter what it costs," he said, adding that he was optimistic that the killer would be found soon.

The head of the investigation team, Colonel Leonard Knipe, said identikits of suspects had been compiled, but it was too dangerous to circulate them in the current climate of anger in the community. He believed the murders were carried out by one person, adding that 80 detectives were involved in the investigation.

Bush says Clinton has hurt image of US leadership

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

■ **Breaking a year of silence, George Bush has accused his successor of drift on three foreign fronts — Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia. The exception so far is Russia**

GEORGE Bush kept his promise of silence during President Clinton's first year, but within days of that grace period ending he has opened fire on the "stop-and-start failures" of his successor's foreign policy.

Bill Clinton's conduct of foreign affairs lacked structure. Mr Bush said in his first interview since leaving office. His national security team had failed to "come together". He had found it impossible to relegate foreign affairs to the back-burner as he had hoped. The result was an "episodic attention to specific issues, but no general strategy".

Mr Clinton had condemned the Bush Administration for failing to curb Serb aggression in Bosnia, but had now adopted essentially the same policy, Mr Bush told *The Washingtonian* magazine with a sense of vindication. "They backed away from their bluster, but not without sending the unfortunate impression of a weak and inconsistent US leadership to the world."

Mr Clinton had attacked Mr Bush for repatriating Haitian refugees but done exactly the same himself. Letting a bunch of Haitian thugs stop American troops landing in Port-au-Prince last October was "devastating, sent a horrible signal" that undermined America's image as a "strong, resolute leader". The Clinton Administration had inadvertently let American soldiers get sucked into a dangerous quagmire in Somalia — "you just can't drift on foreign policy matters," Mr Bush insisted. Only on Russia did he concede that his successor had "handled this situation well up to now".

Mr Bush, nearly 70 but still jogging and playing tennis, lives the life of a private citizen in a new redbrick house he and Barbara have built in an affluent Houston suburb. He is planning his presidential library and writing a book on post-Cold War foreign policy with Brent Scowcroft, his former national security adviser. He commands up to $100,000 (£66,600) per speech but sits on no corporate boards and does charitable work. He calls himself a "point of light": one of the thousands of civic-minded individuals he extolled in office.

His sons, Jeb and George, are seeking the governorships of Florida and Texas this year, and he said he would campaign for them if asked, but his own political days were "over, finished" and he did not miss them. He poignantly blamed his defeat on the fact that "I wasn't articulate enough to overcome the politically driven, press-driven perception that the economy in 1992 was in deep recession. I just was not a good enough communicator. If [Ronald] Reagan had been in my place, he'd have cut through the opposition fog that everything was going to hell".

Mr Bush acidly declared that dealing with the Washington press was what he missed least of all. He was particularly bitter about a *New York Times* report that had cemented the campaign myth that he was "out of touch". It said he was amazed when shown a computerised supermarket check-out counter, but that was untrue, he said.

He also rued the 1990 budget compromise that broke his "no new taxes" pledge. "I was hammered for breaking my word. It cost me a lot of credibility. And in the end, the budget deal didn't work."

□ **Los Angeles:** Thousands of quake victims lined up for food stamps as Hillary Clinton visited quake-ravaged areas that her husband missed on his tour last week. *(Reuter)*

Economy booming, page 21

Defence Minister to take charge in Algeria

BY JOHN PHILLIPS IN ALGIERS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Liamine Zeroual, Algeria's Defence Minister, appears poised to become the country's next President.

Youcef Khatib, the head of the national conference on Algeria's political future, was quoted on French radio yesterday saying that Mr Zeroual was the only candidate for the post which would be announced by tomorrow. "This candidacy was not proposed by the army but by civilians," Mr Khatib reportedly told Radio France Internationale. He said the new President would be sworn in within a week after his appointment. A popular former Foreign Minister turned down the presidency, apparently worried for his and his family's security.

Yesterday Guidance and Reform, the Muslim humanitarian association, said that Mohammad Bouslimani, its president, has been found assassinated two months after he was kidnapped. Mr Bouslimani's body was found buried at El Affroun, 44 miles west of Algiers, after he was grabbed by four gunmen outside his home in Blida, south of the capital, in November. After being taken to an unknown destination, Mr Bouslimani's abductors allowed him to telephone his organisation to say only that he was alive.

Two rival outlawed groups, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the Organisation of Free Algerian Youths (Ojal), claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. The GIA is composed of radical Muslim fundamentalists and the Ojal is violently opposed to the fundamentalists. Ojal had earlier admitted kidnapping Tedjini Boudjelkha, a former leader of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), who was freed after a week.

Despite Mr Khatib's assurance that Mr Zeroual was a civilian choice, the decision was made by the army-backed High Security Council after the conference, which was boycotted by the main political parties, ended earlier this week without naming a President.

The choice of a candidate with a military background seems inevitable and the armed forces will keep him on a tight leash. Looking like a military junta in international eyes is preferable to losing power in the country, for whose independence two million Algerians died.

More than 3,000 people, including 40 foreigners, have been killed in an undeclared civil war. FIS set a deadline of November 30 for all expatriates to leave or face "execution".

Leading article, page 17



A young supporter holding a photograph of President de Klerk during the South African leader's election campaign in black areas of the eastern Transvaal

Peres and Arafat meet as Israeli air force buys US warplanes

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, are to have decisive talks in Switzerland today in an attempt to salvage the deadlocked peace process as the Israeli air force prepares to buy 20 American warplanes.

Before leaving, Mr Peres admitted that there was still "a lot of work" to be done before the "land for peace" accord, already running two months behind schedule, could be implemented. In spite of a week of negotiations, the two sides are still arguing over who will control border crossings into the Palestinian autonomous regions once Israel has withdrawn its forces from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. They also disagree on the size of the Jericho enclave and on security measures for Jewish settlers in Gaza.

Yossi Sarid, the left-wing Environment Minister, also a member of the negotiating team, said: "Even an optimist like myself cannot guarantee that we will come back with any agreements."

Although the failure of the two sides to make any progress has become almost routine, the deadlocked diplomacy is taking its toll. A survey yesterday in *Yedioth Ahronoth*, the Hebrew daily, showed that 55 per cent of Israelis are not satisfied with the handling of negotiations with the Palestinians; 44 per cent approved.

Earlier in the week, Major General Uzi Dayan, the head of the army's planning branch, told Israeli defence correspondents that a "limited war" was possible if the peace process broke down.

Following his warning, the Israel air force announced that it was purchasing American-made F15Is, the world's most sophisticated warplane.

Quayle swallows his pride to eat potato crisps in TV ad

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

BRAVELY embracing the tuber that made him a laughing-stock, Dan Quayle, the former Vice-President, will appear in a one-minute television advertisement for potato crisps to be broadcast during tommorrow's Super Bowl final.

Nobody, least of all Mr Quayle, will ever forget the mockery heaped on him when he instructed a 12-year-old schoolboy to spell potato with an "e" during a spelling competition in New York.

"Potatoes have become a big part of my life," Mr Quayle said in a statement released yesterday from his home in Indiana, "but this time I'm enjoying them. I love football and potato chips, so this was a natural."

In his cameo performance, Mr Quayle loses his seat at the American football final after a 12-year-old boy (Elijah Wood, an actor) bets that he "can't eat just one" crisp. He cannot. Mr Quayle does not actually open his mouth during the advertisement, except to put crisps in it.

The advertisement will be broadcast once, before half-time, as part of a $1 million (£670,000) promotion. Mr Quayle is donating his $50,000 fee to charity. He is the first former Vice-President to appear in a television advertisement, although two failed vice-presidential candidates have done so. The advertising agency BBDO, of New York, "thought 'potato' and the first thing that popped into their minds was Dan Quayle", a spokesman for Frito-Lay, makers of the crisps, said. "He's been great about doing it and is being a good sport about a big embarrassment," another company spokesman said.

From a less charitable standpoint, with his memoirs all but completed, the museum in his honour opened and two years to go until the next election, Mr Quayle may simply be at a loose end and keen for whatever publicity is available.

Super Bowl XXVIII is between the Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills. Mr Quayle is thought to be rooting for the team from Buffaloe.



Quayle: will donate his fee to charity

Gun deaths to exceed road toll

Washington: Guns will kill more people in the United States than road accidents within ten years, according to trend projections by the Health Department (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

The possibility that gun deaths will become the main cause of death by injury will increase pressure for stricter firearm controls and reaffirm President Clinton's plan to try to achieve them. Gun shot deaths have already surged ahead of deaths from motor accidents in the nation's capital and in six states.

Ceiling falls

Hyères: Three people were injured when the ceiling of a supermarket collapsed in this French town just two days after a similar incident in Nice. Both stores are part of the Casino chain. *(AFP)*

Workers leave

Nairobi: Save the Children, the British charity, has flown two of its staff out of Belet Huen in Somalia after gunmen went on the rampage and threatened to kidnap a foreign aid worker. *(Reuter)*

Aide tags along

Vienna: President Klestil, who three days ago reportedly broke off his affair with Margot Loeffler, an aide, is in more trouble after deciding to take her with him on an official visit to Egypt. *(Reuter)*

Tourist kidnap

Paris: Yemeni tribesmen in the Arabian peninsula with a grudge against their government have kidnapped three French tourists, including two women, the Foreign Ministry said here. *(Reuter)*

Kurds raided

Ankara: There were "heavy losses" when the Turkish air force bombed a Turkish Kurd rebel camp in northern Iraq housing about 1,600 guerrillas, Tansu Ciller, the Prime Minister, said. *(AFP)*

China protest

Peking: In what is said to be the biggest action of its kind since the 1989 pro-democracy protests, 350 people have signed a petition seeking justice in a case of alleged police brutality. *(Reuter)*

Reform pledge

Miami: The Mexican government has promised sweeping reforms to meet the grievances of Indian peasants who rebelled in the southern state of Chiapas a month ago before the August election.

Grain shortage

Seoul: North Korea, which admitted last year that its economy was in crisis, is said by South Korea's Rural Development Administration to be facing the worst grain shortage in a decade. *(Reuter)*



Moscow strives to regain lost glory with new assertiveness

Europe troubled by Russia's recurring dreams of empire

BY LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

IN December 1992 Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, astonished his European colleagues at a meeting in Stockholm by delivering a hardline, chauvinist speech that was in contrast to his liberal, pro-Western image. He explained that this was not the genuine article, but his way of warning of the consequences if the forces of darkness took over again in Moscow.

Last week the joke began to rebound as Mr Kozyrev attempted to sound tough and nationalistic as he explained why Russian troops are likely to refuse to budge from Estonia and Latvia for some time.

He knows he has been marked by the old left and new right, now in the ascendant in Moscow, as a symbol of all they consider craven and weak in recent Russian foreign policy. They want him to follow the economic reformers in their flight from Viktor Chernomydrin's Cabinet. After Yegor Gaidar and Boris Fyodorov comes the deluge of subsidies and hyper-inflation. After Mr Kozyrev there could be even greater Russian assertiveness within the area of the old Soviet Union and possibly beyond.

The nationalistic turn in Russian foreign policy has been evident for some time — well before Vladimir Zhirinovsky made his mark in the December elections. Even as the Soviet Union was breaking up, Russian officials explained that they still felt an obligation to care for the security of the 25 million Russians who suddenly found themselves expatriated.

Without much comment or interference from the West, the Russian military has meddled in Georgia and Moldavia in support of groups who wish to re-establish links with Russia. Moscow has used economic levers, including dependence on oil, as another means of reasserting its hegemony over what is now known as the "near abroad".

Mr Zhirinovsky's success has strengthened the nationalistic tendency. Mr Kozyrev will find it even harder to maintain support for UN resolutions condemning Serbia or isolating President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

There is an even greater danger of Russia setting on a collision course with Ukraine and the Baltic states. Tomorrow Yuri Meshkov, a Russian nationalist, is expected to win a presidential vote in Crimea, which was transferred to Ukraine only in the 1950s.

Mr Meshkov has talked about putting Crimea into the rouble zone while denying that this is tantamount to secession. He may demand an early referendum or greater autonomy, thereby posing President Kravchuk of Ukraine the terrible dilemma of choosing between the break-up of his country or hazarding a civil conflict.

Estonia could soon face similar pressures. There the sizeable Russian minority feels disenfranchised through citizenship laws. It is possible to envisage a parallel government being elected by the Russian-speakers which could call on volunteers for protection when its legitimacy was challenged by the Estonian government. Latvia, where a majority of the population is non-Latvian in nationality, could face a similar process.

Could things get so bad? The next few weeks in Ukraine will provide some clues, the fate of Mr Kozyrev will provide more. If the hardliners do win in Moscow, then there will be little point any more in gearing Western policy to support a moderate faction so clearly in eclipse.



A Second World War veteran weeps at a Moscow service marking the victory of Soviet troops at Leningrad. The ceremony is an occasion when nationalistic feelings run high, sentiments that now increasingly dominate Russian policy

Former police chief arrests Minsk reform

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE Belorussian parliament yesterday elected a former senior Soviet policeman as head of state. Police General Mecheslav Grib, 57, is expected to help take Belorussia back to a conservative economic policy and even closer dependence on Russia.

He replaces Stanislav Shushkevich, the liberal parliamentary chairman, who was ousted by parliament on Wednesday. General Grib gained 183 votes to 51 for his nearest rival, Mikhail Marinich, a former senior Communist official. General Grib made it clear in a speech to parliament in Minsk before the vote that he will scrap Mr Shushkevich's programme of seeking economic reform and a middle position between the West and Russia.

"I support the programme of our government and parliament in orienting our economy towards the East," he said. "Our relations with the East and Great Russia are of the utmost importance to us."

He emphasised establishing even closer relations with Russia, although he also said that this should not stand in the way of good contacts with the West. Predictably, he emphasised the need to fight against crime. Mr Marinich spoke of dealing with the economic crisis and strengthening statehood. Only the centrist Viktor Gonchar, the third candidate, mentioned economic reform in his speech.

The Belorussian Prime Minister, Vyacheslav Kebich, yesterday expressed regret at the dismissal of Mr Shushkevich, and said that, though he and Mr Shushkevich had "some differences", they had been at one on "ensuring the country's transfer to a market economy without upheavals or a fall in living standards".

This was kind, but hardly sincere. Mr Shushkevich and Mr Kebich were in fact at odds for more than a year over the linked questions of economic reform and the achievement of real Belorussian independence from Russia. Mr Shushkevich, though he also emphasised good relations with Moscow, described himself as a nationalist and tried to strength a sense of Belorussian independence.

For historical and cultural reasons, however, this sense is largely lacking in a region which, unlike neighbouring western Ukraine, has never generated a strong national consciousness or national movement and generally has felt itself part of Russia. So weak is national feeling in the Belorussian elite that Mr Shushkevich has been mocked for speaking the national language in public rather than the more usual Russian.

Mr Kebich represents the conservative economic policy favoured by the republic's industrial and agricultural managers, who oppose economic reform and regard an open border and joint currency with Russia as essential for their survival.

Self-styled ruler of Turkmens promises people golden age

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN ASHKABAD

THE jowls of the portly aide in President Niyazov's office quivered with apprehension as he led the way across an acreage of exquisite antique carpet to the den of the leader who styles himself the "head of all Turkmens", and whose portrait in various poses of benevolence confronts visitors to Turkmenistan from the moment they board the national airline.

President Niyazov had his ego boosted this month by a Soviet-style referendum that gave him 99.99 per cent of the vote, but guests granted a rare audience are expected to bolster it. "It would be best if you started off by congratulating him on his result and the last question should be about Anglo-Turkmen relations ... in the middle, it would be preferable if you didn't ask about the opposition and democracy," said the aide.

Only 212 people from an electorate of nearly two million voted against Mr Niyazov in the ballot held to bypass the constitutional clause calling for re-election of the president every five years. This entitles him to stay in office until 2002, but judging by the personality cult that he has fathered — streets, schools, farms and even the main canal bear his name — he is modelling himself on the pre-revolutionary Khans who ruled the region until death.



Niyazov: has pledged free bread to citizens

Mr Niyazov, also prime minister and head of Turkmenistan's only legal party, defends his one-man state by pointing to its stability amid coup attempts and civil strife bedevilling former Soviet republics. But when asked about the poor human rights record and its lack of democratic structures, he betrayed neither embarrassment nor anger. He said: "Turkmenistan has the highest regard for human rights. It is the supreme human right to live in stability and without war."

Mr Niyazov is promising the citizens of the Central Asian republic a "golden future" after decades of poverty. The secret of the transformation lies in harnessing the wealth from gas and oil reserves for itself, which until now had gone to Moscow's coffers, and officials boast of becoming "the second Kuwait". He has even pledged all citizens free bread from 1996.

However, the harsher realities of post-Soviet life are beginning to intrude. The national currency, the manat, introduced with much fanfare in the autumn has slipped to a twelfth of its intitial value. The government promptly introduced a Soviet-style official exchange rate so absurd that a Mars bar now costs £15.

Bonn keeps hands off SS charity

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BONN has refused to act against a charity set up to help former SS officers and their relatives. Siegfried Vergin, a Social Democratic deputy who had questioned the charitable status of the group, yesterday described the government's decision as a "disgrace, an utter scandal".

The charity, Stille Hilfe (Quiet Aid), is run from the small market town of Rotenburg an der Wümme in Lower Saxony. Its specific aim is to help former SS officers, most of whom are now in their eighties.

Publications produced under the charity's auspices show, however, that it is far from unpolitical. Pamphlets talk of "so-called war criminals" and, according to the anti-Nazi newsletter *Looking Right*, there are clear connections between the SS charity and neo-Nazi organisations.

Dr Jürgen Echternach, the State Secretary of the German Finance Ministry, ruled however that Stille Hilfe was unknown to the authorities and that no action could therefore be taken. Herr Vergin, however, has gathered a dossier about the group. "It is incomprehensible to me that the federal government has not studied the available evidence," he said yesterday. The Finance Ministry reply was "a document of helplessness".

Of all the German war veterans, the SS have shown themselves to be the best organised. The so-called Aid Community for former Waffen SS soldiers lobbied hard in the 1960s for equal treatment with ordinary army veterans. Of 900,000 Waffen SS members, over 200,000 died in the war and 40,000 were registered missing.

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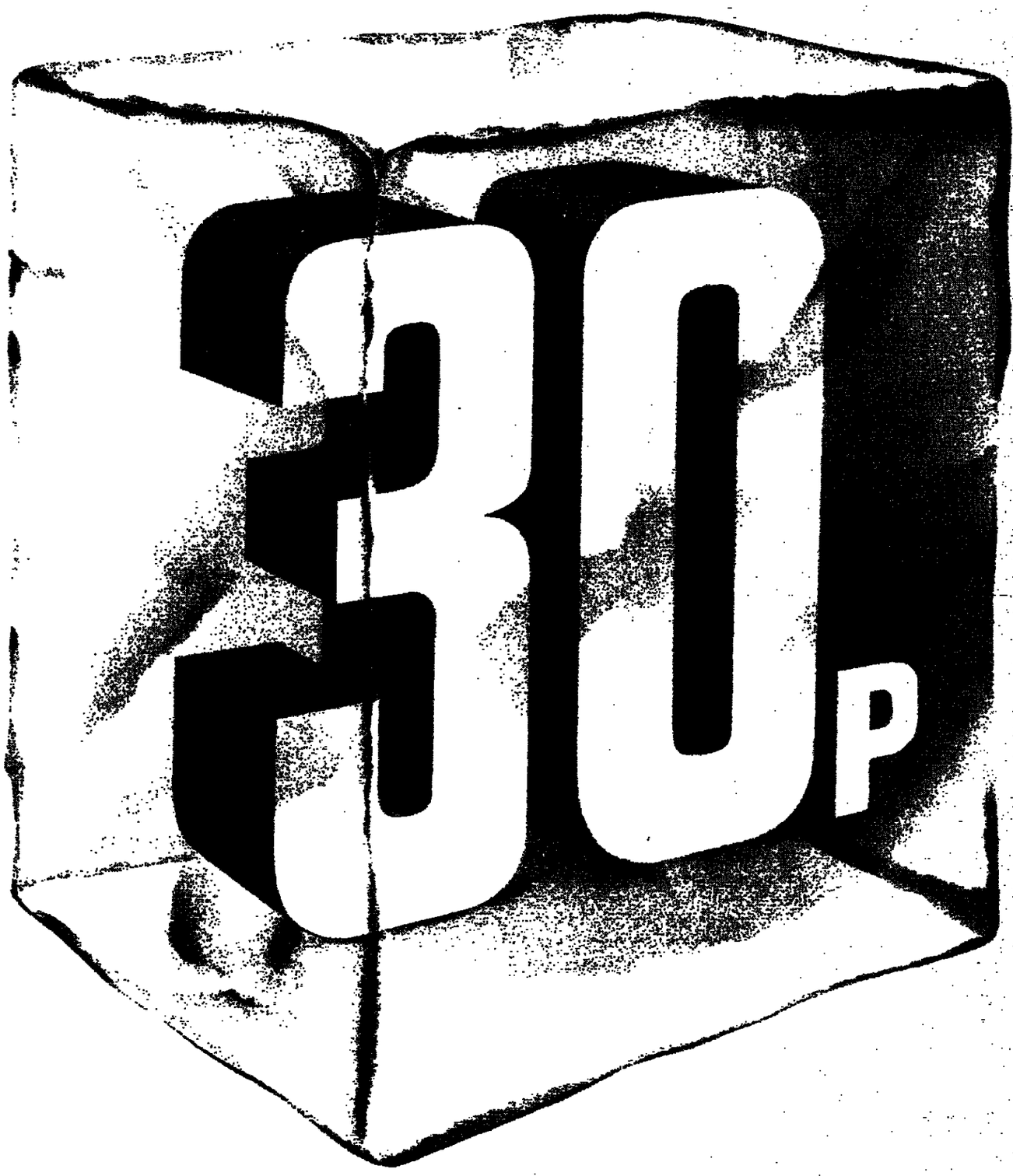
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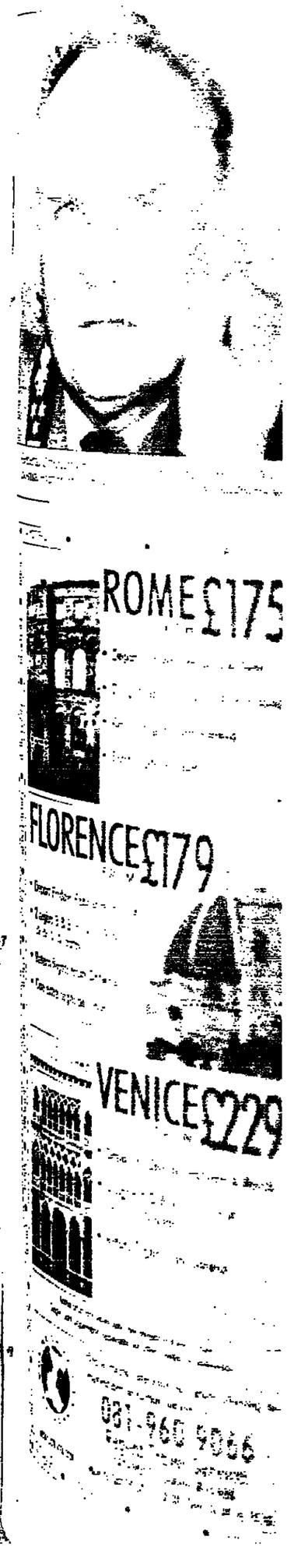
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Allies face spring deadline to avert all-out Bosnia war

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

■ Bosnia's Muslim leadership is believed to have over-estimated its military capability. This, and a belief that America will launch air strikes, is encouraging them to hold on

THE cold-blooded killing of British aid worker Paul Goodall, and the deaths of three Italian journalists, are likely to intensify the agonising debate about how long peacekeepers and aid convoys should continue to risk life and limb in Bosnia.

The deaths come as international soul-searching about what to do next in the Balkans is coming to a head. Although there are cavernous differences about how to stop the fighting, almost everyone trying to find an answer agrees that Bosnia faces a full-blown war with unimagined casualties this spring unless a peace deal is reached.

But the Geneva talks have hit gridlock, with the Muslims believing they can gain more on the battlefield than at the negotiating table.

America and Europe are sliding dangerously apart over Washington's refusal to press the Muslims to talk more seriously, while Serbs, Croats and Muslims arm themselves to the teeth in preparation for a spring offensive.

The Muslims are likely to benefit more in the long term if they do make concessions in Geneva which lead to a settlement, European sources believe. This is partly because they have probably overestimated their military strength and could lose rather than gain in spring battles against a burgeoning Serb-Croat alliance. Thousands of Croats are believed to be flooding across the border into Bosnia to reinforce the Bosnian Croat HVO forces.



Sections of the Muslim leadership are still pinning hopes on America and the fading chance that Washington will magically clear the way for air attacks on Serb positions. European leaders are angry that President Clinton's Administration has not told the Muslim leadership that Nato is highly unlikely to do this. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, faces difficult talks in Washington and New York next week.

Countries surrounding the former Yugoslavia are meanwhile undergoing an important shift in their attitude towards the conflict at a time when Russia is playing an increasingly active role.

Hungary, traditionally an ally of Croatia, and Romania and Bulgaria are believed to be unhappy about the effects of United Nations sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia because the curbs are seen as dragging down the economies of the entire region. Budapest believes the sanctions do more harm than good and are bolstering the regime they are supposed to weaken — that of President Milosevic in Serbia, according to sources close to the Geneva talks.

Lord Owen, the European Union's peace negotiator, is to visit Russia, Bulgaria, Romania and possibly Albania next week to test the temperature among the former Yugoslavia's neighbours.

Moscow, which has kinship ties with the Serbs, is crucial to the peace process. Plans are being discussed for Russian soldiers to take up position near Tuzla in an attempt to persuade the Serbs to allow the airport there to reopen, according to senior Western sources. Nato leaders have threatened to use air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs unless they allow one of three airfields in the area to reopen for vital aid supplies.

The use of Russian troops to solve the impasse would end one of the main disputes between the Serbs and Nato and ease the negotiating process in Geneva. A spokesman for the Russian government said yesterday: "We are considering different ways of solving this problem, including the deployment of a Russian contingent."

It is now believed that countries supplying peacekeeping troops are edging towards a decision to stay.

In Brussels, General Francis Briquemont, the outgoing commander of UN forces in Bosnia, said he was opposed to the idea of withdrawing troops. "I'm not certain [the Bosnians] would let us go. They understand now that we are probably their only guarantee of survival."

Hours after the latest deaths in Bosnia, Mr Hurd told Channel 4 television that a judgment would have to be made "whether we continue this mix of military-humanitarian effort, and if we do so whether we have got that mix right and whether we can improve it".

The justification for keeping British troops and aid workers in former Yugoslavia was that "they have kept alive many thousands of people who would otherwise be dead or in suffering", he said. "We and they can be proud of what we have done."



General Briquemont, the UN's outgoing commander in Bosnia, expressing opposition yesterday to withdrawal

Aid frozen, page 1
Daily dangers, page 3

Boyfriend writes to Pope over abortion

FROM PHILIP WILLAN
IN ROME

The decision of an Italian student to write to the Pope in an attempt to prevent his girlfriend from having an abortion has opened up a debate in Roman Catholic Italy on the rights of men in abortion cases.

The controversy began at the start of the week when Francesco Gennaro, 22, wrote to the Pope and President Scalfaro complaining: "Together with my girlfriend, I am going through the most dramatic period of my life. No one has thought about my psychological well-being. I am suffering psychological violence."

On Tuesday his girlfriend, identified only as Barbara, 23, failed to turn up at a Turin clinic where she was due to undergo the abortion because of the presence of the press.

The next day the Turin daily, *La Stampa*, published a long interview with Signor Gennaro, who said: "All the gynaecologists were asking her, speaking to her. What about me? Didn't I count for anything?"

Barbara replied with an interview in *La Stampa* on Thursday, saying that Signor Gennaro had previously left her for another woman and she no longer had any confidence in his affection. She said she had been mistreated by him, forced to watch a video of an abortion, and to accompany him on a visit to an exorcist.

"I've got a baby inside me, not the devil," she said, adding that she suspected Signor Gennaro of having deliberately got her pregnant in order to restore their relationship.

She said she did not believe he had publicised the case out of love for the child. "He does not know what love is. He is an exhibitionist. He wanted to obtain publicity and to obtain publicity for the pro-life movement." Barbara said she did not want to have the child and hand it over to Signor Gennaro because he was a domestic tyrant.

The Vatican has condemned the clamour surrounding the case. In yesterday's semi-official *Osservatore Romano*, it condemned the role of the media "and the too many voices raised to defend the man or the woman — according to ideological interests and alignments". The child's right to life, the paper said, should be paramount.

Signor Gennaro's mother has condemned his decision to involve the media and expressed sympathy for Barbara. "I can't condemn her. I told her 'whatever decision you take, I will accept'. As a mother I feel close to her."



A cheerful Princess Caroline of Monaco arriving at Monte Carlo's 18th International Circus Festival. The royal family attends the week-long extravaganza every year

Bardot receives death threats

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

BRIGITTE Bardot had police guards assigned to her Riviera home yesterday after she enraged France's *boucheries chevaline* by appealing to the nation to give up its tradition of eating horsemeat.

The former actress, who now devotes herself to animal rights, received dozens of death threats within hours of her appearance on *Sacrée Soirée*, a top television show in which she presented an emotional argument against eating horsemeat. After showing films from unidentified slaughterhouses, she said horses were sensitive creatures and suffered at the moment of death.

"The horse is also an extraordinary symbol and is not made for our dinner plates," she said. Police were called to escort Mme Bardot, 60 this year, from Paris to her home near St Tropez. Jean-Pierre Foucault, the presenter of the programme, also received threats.

The national horse-butchers' union denied yesterday that it had anything to do with the threats, but denounced the star for "trying to massacre our industry". Two butchers from Noisy-le-Sec, near Paris, immediately filed a criminal complaint against Mme Bardot, whose pro-animal activities have often led her into legal trouble. The butchers objected to the actress's claim that horsemeat is unhealthy.

Yesterday Mme Bardot wrote an open letter to Jean Puech, the Agriculture Minister, saying she had based her appeal on his personal advice. She urged him to ban the consumption of horsemeat. The star runs a foundation that has made a name for its aggressive actions on behalf of dogs, cats, donkeys and other animals. It has lately been in the news because of her marriage last year to a leading figure in the neo-Nazi National Front.

Minister tries to scuttle Le Shuttle

BY CHARLES BREMNER

FRENCH anguish over the supremacy of English surfaced again yesterday when Jacques Toubon, the Culture Minister, denounced the decision to name the cross-Channel train Le Shuttle.

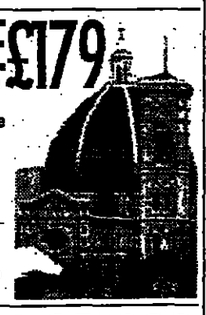
M Toubon said he was engaged in a battle with the Franco-British Eurotunnel company over its advertising campaign in France. This reads (in French): What Jules Verne never dreamed up, What Napoleon never managed; What Europe waited 100 years for ... C'est Le Shuttle. C'est le 6 mai." Why use the English word, wondered M Toubon, when the perfectly good French term *navette* means exactly the same thing?

"It seems ridiculous. Why not talk about crossing 'Le Channel' while they are at it," he said. While the waterway is still known exclusively in French as *La Manche*, M Toubon's argument is hardly new. In the 1960s, the French fought hard to make sure the Gallic final "e" was tacked onto the Concorde.

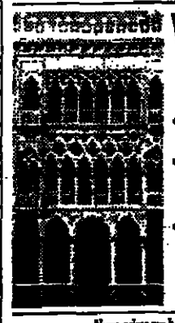
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Suspected art trickster defies brush with law

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A CALIFORNIAN suspected of stealing a 17th-century Old Master from a European gallery appeared likely to walk free from a Los Angeles court yesterday, frustrating Scotland Yard detectives who have twice failed to put him behind bars.

Charles Crutcher Jr, also known to some of his victims as Lord Peter Charles de Vere Beauclerk, and Charles de Crèvecoeur, was charged with illegally attempting to sell the Teniers oil painting, *A Peasant Filling His Pipe*, stolen from the Robert Noortman Gallery in 1987. The jury has been unable to agree on a verdict.

The offence was not serious enough to warrant extradition, so Scotland Yard flew a senior policeman and two witnesses to California to help secure a conviction.

Mr Crutcher's first brush with British justice came in 1978, when he surfaced in Chelsea as "Lord Peter", claiming to be an international financier and a member of the Prince of Wales's polo club. Accused by several women of wooing them and saddling them with his debt — hence the French alias Crèvecoeur (broken heart) — he was summoned to a police station for questioning but assaulted the two policemen escorting him and escaped. When police caught up with him the following year in a pub near Oxford, Mr Crutcher is said to have given them the slip by driving through a hedge.

In the late 1980s Mr Crutcher was wanted in connection with a shoplifting incident in Harrods. British police did not learn of his connection with the missing Teniers until it turned up in London last year, shipped from Mr Crutcher's home in California with a £100,000 price tag. When he was arrested last October, Mr Crutcher was working for $6 an hour in a surf shop.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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Why should the unlikely scenario of a woman harassing a man be making big bucks in America? **Ben Macintyre** reports

Well, he was asking for it

Michael Crichton, the novelist who breathed new life into old dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, has dredged another predatory creature from the primal past to threaten mankind, or rather man: namely the powerful, ambitious woman who wants to go to bed with men *and* take their jobs and is now in a position to demand both. Scary stuff.

In *Disclosure*, his new novel, the admirable Crichton claims to be addressing an important new aspect of the American gender battle: women who abuse their power in the workplace by sexually harassing men.

In a pious afterword he insists that his theme is based on real events but "is not intended to deny the fact that the great majority of harassment claims are brought by women". He concludes: "The advantage of a role-reversal story is that it may enable us to examine aspects concealed by traditional responses." True, except that in this case it raises a spectre that has more basis in prejudice than fact. Statistically, the sexual harassment of men by women is so rare as to be virtually non-existent.

Perhaps men do not report sexual harassment, or are more often flattered than offended by the attentions of a female boss, but whatever the causes, cases of women sexually harassing men at work are not just rare, they are freaks. This is not a "social problem", in any coherent way, but a novelty.

What Crichton has cottoned on to then is not a genuine issue, but something altogether more marketable: a modern caricature of the ultimate female ogre that is as old as time, meshing neatly with a hoary male horror-fantasy. *Vagina dentata* in a Chanel suit.

Let me spoil *Disclosure* for you by outlining the plot. Believe me, this will not take long. Thomas Sanders (modern man, plays football, butch but bruisable: read Michael Douglas) expects to be promoted at Digicom (high-tech communications firm, lots of clever machines). Instead the job goes to Meredith Johnson (brassy, blonde, manipulative: read Glenn Close) because, as the Digicom head honcho puts it: "We have to make allowances for women. We have to cut them a little slack." Tom is invited to a meeting with Meredith. She opens the chilled wine, orders her assistant to bring in some condoms, locks the door and tells him, in a few panting words, what a regular stud-muffin he is.

"She moved towards him in a steady, confident way, almost stalking." (Why does this remind me of the tyrannosaurus rex scene in the *Jurassic Park* film?) Tom, being a principled, married sort of bloke, protests. Hell hath no fury etc. Meredith vows to get even, files a sexual harassment complaint and threatens to transfer Tom to a doomed division of the company. He decides to turn the tables and sue her.

The plot is implausible, the characters more plastic than anything on the set of *Jurassic Park*, and *Disclosure* is not so much a novel as a hot-button-issue film-script in waiting. Even before it was published, the film rights were sold to Warner Bros for the obscene sum of $3.5 million.

From Delilah and Circe to Medusa and the Sirens, women have often been portrayed as leeches of male vitality, ready to turn man to stone and impotence with a look, a spell or a pair of scissors. But there is a new and ugly fear of female success and power abroad in America reflected in such films as the Christmas hit *Mrs Doubtfire*, in which Sally Field plays a steely career woman whose ambitions wreck a marriage, to say nothing of the more obvious *Fatal Attraction*/*Basic Instinct* genre.

The images are often cynically couched as proving that women are equal to men, in the sense of being equally horrible, greedy and dishonest. But the portrayal of women in most cases seems to have less to do with their failings as individual characters, than the threat they pose as a gender to men.

In a different arena, some of the critical attacks on Hillary Clinton and Anita Hill would be unthinkable if the subjects were male: Hillary the machiavellian, bloodless shrew; Anita the entrapper, using her feminine wiles to attempt to bring down a guiltless man. These are ancient stereotypes.

Disclosure plays directly to those male fears. This is not an attempt to raise the level of debate on a thorny subject, but to further muddy waters already horribly silted by mutual antagonism and media hype by deliberately forging the myth of the harassing She-Boss.

Crichton has a knack for spotting visceral fears from a long way off, and then exaggerating them: dinosaurs, Japanese (in *Rising Sun*) and now women. In this novel Meredith charges in like a libidinous velociraptor dinosaur. This is not thought-provoking, but pandering.

None of which would matter much, of course, if Crichton were not so peculiarly successful. His book will be read by several million people, the film of the book will be watched by millions more, by which time its contents will have become fact, another crater in the *cultural landscape*.

With some lateral thinking and about 440 pages of big type, Crichton has cooked up some monsters, which, like his earlier beasties, are pretty darn frightening even though they do not really exist, yet.

There is a papist plot by a group of writers to undermine the Church of England, **Tim Bradshaw** says

Anglicans fear the Catholics who conspire

'Who's afraid of the big bad press?", asked William Rees-Mogg in *The Times* this week, prior to his discussion of the danger of an overbearing press and his delight at watching ministers avoiding him. One institution which has been on the receiving end of a vicious and persistent campaign at the hands of several journalists, given apparently free range across three or four titles, is the Church of England.

The consistent onslaught on the Church of England during the past year, reaching a strident crescendo with the conversion of the Duchess of Kent to Roman Catholicism, has been remarkable. It has been carried out by Roman Catholic journalists, notably Paul Johnson, William Oddie and Clifford Longley. Editorials have often followed this path also, in *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* particularly. Last week's *Baptist Times* noted this with some alarm. The bitter tone of these writers, and the lack of space given in reply, has been noteworthy. The clear message has been that Anglicanism should be replaced by Romanism as the nation's primary expression of Church life. There can be little doubt now that there is a powerful corps of right-wing Roman Catholic journalists committed regularly to write corrosive articles. The recent *Guardian* interview with Cristina Odone, editor of the *Catholic Herald*, revealed this active campaigning group to include Auberon Waugh and Paul Johnson, who is theologically what may fairly be described as a fundamentalist.

> There is a powerful corps of journalists writing corrosive articles

Lord Rees-Mogg, a very powerful media figure and keen Roman Catholic, adopts a key position. He calls for Rome to take over the cathedrals of this country. The reconversion of England was called for by Odone and Johnson.

Hence we have the phenomenon of the right-wing press simultaneously bashing political correctness and also in a bold and often extreme fashion attacking the Church of England, while promoting the claims of Rome. A powerful Roman media campaign is underway, although I doubt whether it has any sanction from Cardinal Hume. This is a very serious matter from several angles, even for a secularist, given the constitutional ramifications and the clear aim of Romanising the Establishment, not abolishing it. A huge media assault on the Church of England by this group is to be expected come the Easter conversion of priests who disagree with the ordination of women.

The Anglican Church may even be regarded as being punished by the right for failing to march in step to the Thatcher drumbeat. Perhaps that is why the Tory press allows itself to run these Roman articles so often. The *Telegraph* group is owned by a commercially aggressive lay Roman Catholic, Conrad Black, who may take over *The Independent*. Clearly, his papers are committed to furthering his religious cause, shown by the daily campaign in *The Daily Telegraph* after the duchess converted.

Elizabeth Grice exemplified this denigration, airily writing in *The Daily Telegraph* of the "enfeebled voice of the Church of England", despite the Archbishop of Canterbury's remarkable effort of witness and encouragement in Sudan, and also Dr Habgood's very good ethical appraisal of the use of foetal tissue — which was praised by the Roman Catholic weekly, *The Universe*. Her piece highlighted a claim that Anglicanism was constantly shifting, whereas Rome never changed. Perhaps a voice from the Anglican side might possibly be allowed to question this judgment?

The Church of England has not altered its doctrine since the Reformation, when Catholicism in this country was pruned of sub-Christian accretions such as the purchase of indulgences to gain remission from purgatory. Reformed Catholicism was established, no doubt with imperfections, including the unfair treatment of many good religious houses, and appalling treatment of the Puritans and Methodists.

But the Church of England stands under the authority of scripture, the first four ecumenical councils defining the Trinity and the person of Christ, and also the 39 Articles. This has never been changed. The Lambeth Quadrilateral (1888) reaffirmed the commitment to the scriptures, the creeds, the two sacraments of baptism and holy communion and the threefold ministry of bishop, priest and deacon. The one change instituted has been the ordination of women, argued on scriptural grounds.

The same is not claimed by the Roman church. There have been, for example, new dogmas promulgated, which the faithful must believe, relating to Mary. She was decreed in 1854 to have been conceived differently to other women, without taint of original sin, and decreed in 1950 to have been received bodily into heaven without dying. These dogmas were infallibly given by the popes, and there is no scriptural evidence to justify them. In 1870 the papacy declared its pronouncements infallible *ex cathedra*, separate from the consent of the Church. This means that new doctrines from the papacy are quite possible. This is not in question; the debate is about whether these changes are merely "developments", as John Henry Newman argued, or accretions which encrust the apostolic faith in layers of cultus and clerical control.

Two of Rome's recent changes, since the 1960s, have followed the example of Canterbury and the Reformation: conducting the liturgy in the native tongue, and giving the cup to the laity, both thoroughly biblical and apostolic reforms. Would it be unfair to ask whether in 100 years women will be ordained by Rome, given a Papal change, or "development", of mind? For the Church of England the authority of scripture is paramount and that of some maverick bishops is not.

Such creative thinking, however, has been shown to fail within the apostolic tradition. A crucial test will be the issue of homosexuality: if the apostolic view on this is subverted by General Synod, then the charge of unapostolic changes may be put; until then Anglicans can claim with a good conscience to stand under the teaching of the prophets and the apostles, practising indigenous reformed Catholicism, not political correctness, as claimed. Seeking to undermine the Anglican Church by unwarranted suggestion and slur will serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ ill in these times when faith needs building up, not transmuting into some campaign for control.

Some Roman Catholic journalists seem to have broken with the ecumenical ethos altogether in favour of outright aggression. I hope that the hierarchy will stamp on it soon.

The author is Dean of Regent's Park College, Oxford

Gallic flair, British despair

While French leadership produces the magnificent Grand Louvre, we argue over rail-links



A detail from L'Amour embrassant l'Amitié by Pigalle (1714-1785), on display at the Richelieu Wing, opened just before Christmas last year, at the Grand Louvre, Paris

Simon Jenkins

There is now no museum in the world to compare with the Louvre. Museums are the pilgrimage abbeys of our age. Since the opening of the Richelieu Wing along the Rue de Rivoli before Christmas, almost a million souls have visited its courts, corridors and halls and reeled away stunned and marvelling. Six months of reverence are allegedly needed for true acolytes at this shrine to art history. The new wing itself is the size of the British Museum. The way to Santiago de Compostela is a stroll in comparison.

Why is it that the French can build these monuments and Britain cannot? The answer is leadership. The Grand Louvre was personally supervised by President Mitterrand. He brooked no opposition. It is just one of his "grands travaux" that include library, opera house and science park. The Orsay Museum across the Seine was similarly authorised by his predecessor, President Giscard d'Estaing. In Britain only Dockland tunnels and Malaysian dams command such prime ministerial droit de seigneur.

The Richelieu wing is sensational. I may dislike I.M. Pei's crude Louvre pyramid and the barren airport concourse below. They make a bleak overture to the hard labour of the Denon wing: nowhere a picture, statue or other relief for the vast crowds awaiting entry into Mr Pei's cultural Hades.

But his architectural contribution to the new gallery is limited to a frigid basement and two sculpture courtyards full of slit windows and inclined planes. Above them rise the façades and ornate salons of Napoleon III's palace, four storeys of utter splendour. Here are the Assyrian, Egyptian, Islamic and Gothic collections, the tapestries and silverware and, atop of them all, the new galleries of French, Dutch, German and Flemish masters.

I may have seen some of these pictures before but I had not noticed them. Here is a complete new European museum of no fewer than 165 rooms. One after another room is devoted to artists in which I had not known the Louvre was strong: Memling and Cranach, Ruisdael, Kuyp and Steen, Van Dyck and Rubens — indeed Rubens *ad nauseam*.

Here are rooms of Lorrains and Poussins. Here is the picture I most covet, Holbein's *Erasmus at his desk*, (if it is ever stolen, the art squad should immediately search my study). Directions and mapping are faultless. Pictures are well-described and set on softly coloured backgrounds. Compared to the chaotic Orsay, Richelieu is order enriched by panache. For whom has this £750 million been spent? To me the answer is clear. It has been spent for the enjoyment of the world and the glory of France. Can that glory be quantified in any way that justifies the cost? Yes, up to a point.

Since the opening of the Louvre pyramid five years ago, attendances have risen from three million to five million a year. The majority are from abroad. Although ticket sales (up 50 per cent since the new opening) cover just 20 per cent of total costs, the vitality of Paris's museums is crucial to keeping the city a premier tourist destination. This is investment in what is by far Europe's most important trade.

France's foreign tourism earnings rose over the 1980s by 9 per cent, taking account of inflation. Britain's rose by 5.7 per cent and showed a steeply declining market share. Britain's balance of payments on the tourist account collapsed in the 1980s from a surplus of £688 million in 1979 to a deficit of £3.4 billion last year. France's rose from £2 billion to £5 billion.

Modern tourism depends on more than good hotels, railways and coachparks. It depends on the magnets that draw visitors to a country in the first place, and demands improvement and novelty. Paris supplies this. London rests on its laurels, on the well-known round of buildings and on musical theatre. But the former do not draw second visits, and the latter now travels abroad (*Cats* is in Hong Kong and a dozen other places). A new Lloyd Webber musical will not indefinitely compete with a Grand Louvre.

Britain seems quite unable to make these spectacular investments, in the arts or in any other field. The sagas of the British Library and the Channel tunnel rail-link suggested a banana republic rather than a modern democracy. Both had to be built sooner or later and could not be left to the private sector.

After years of government mind-changing and delay, both are emerging as inglorious second bests, the butt of ridicule rather than national pride. The National Gallery extension was a 40-year fiasco as long as the Government was in charge of it. The new Royal Opera House appears locked in the same bind. The location for a London museum of modern art — which a Frenchman would put at Bankside without blinking — has been shelved until Easter. What is wrong? British people can take pride in their achievements when the occasion arises. Manchester's Olympic bid, a sporting success, the affection for the royal family all call forth collective enthusiasm for national identity. The British may be suspicious of grand gestures. We love the small platoons, the parish churches, the country houses, the ancient villages and the upstairs theatres. We admire privacy and discretion and take quiet pride in understatement. But we can cheer when asked.

I fear the culprit is an old familiar. Britain's chief tourist magnets require a measure of government support. The most underdeveloped resource, historic towns and parish churches, for instance, are all but ignored as tourist investments. Because the return on such assets is "external", to hundreds of small businesses in the tourist industry, there is no vehicle for cross-subsidy other than government.

The French Government acknowledges this responsibility and fuses it to a real sense of national pride, in anything from a museum or high speed train to a cleaner motorway. Ask a Frenchman if he feels £750 million well-spent on the Louvre and he will say an unequivocal yes. British governments shy away from such chauvinism. Enthusiasm is suspect in a minister.

The Treasury says with its head in its hands that such projects are money wasted. But not all is waste, and who can tell which return is short and which long term?

In France, big projects are pursued with ferocity once the leadership has supported them. The Treasury, now the central institution of British government, pursues nothing with conviction except next year's expenditure planning total. It embodies negation.

Its chief secretary might take his title from the Louvre's first great *custodian, the Chevalier de Non*. Today holder of this office is Michael Portillo, who believes that national cynicism is a new British disease. Present a Grand Louvre to Mr Portillo and I bet he would win a gold star for cynicism. Perhaps British government is organically incapable of a Grand Louvre. Perhaps we should boast instead of our more intimate delights, of Sainsbury and Clore, Kenwood and Wallace, Hampton and Kew.

We should treasure the City of London churches, most of them about to be declared redundant and among the unknown gems of London architecture. Unlike the Louvre, London's attractions at least do not leave visitors like exhausted competitors in a Japanese television game show. But they are harder to sell. And they need public support every bit as much as the monuments of France.

But is it hopeless? We could attempt a sort of reply to the Louvre by hurling ourselves, from the Prime Minister down, at the creation of a Bankside museum of modern art. One day such a museum must be. So why not do it now and say, with Cyrano, that we did it "with panache"?

On the money-go-round

MATTHEW BOND DIARY

"LADIES and gentlemen, *faites vos jeux*." A hush settles over the assembled players and supporters, as the Las Vegas croupier sets the roulette wheel spinning. The rattle of the circling ball holds them hypnotised. Round and round and round it goes — until the familiar staccato chatter signals a conclusion. The pause lasts a split second and an eternity.

"Red 7, ladies and gentleman. Red wins." Applause breaks out at one corner of the table, where a pink-faced Londoner greets the arrival of a towering pile of chips with a quiet smile . . .

And, with that, Chris Boyd, made his excuses and left, driving off into the Nevada sunset, in the happy knowledge that he had staked his entire savings on a single spin of a roulette wheel — and won. End of story? Well, not quite.

Already, there are reports of high-rolling, former Wrens heading to Vegas, eager to double six figure damages paid by the Navy for wrongful dismissal after they had become pregnant. An expensive case of: "*Faites vos jeux* — but not on my ship."

And certainly not the end as far as I, a life-long seeker of any scheme that might make me rich, am concerned. All the reports of friend Boyd's good fortune have concentrated on the fact that he walked away from Las Vegas with £290,000. What I want to know — given that neither he, nor I, is, or will ever be, a Wren — is how he assembled the £145,000 stake money in the first place? The reports make only passing mention of the fact that his stake money was the result of three years of saving. Passing mention? Of £145,000 saved in three years; the best part of £50,000 a year; not far off £1,000 a week. Passing mention?

Money, you see, has always been a mystery to me, especially the subtle art of assembling some. A straightforward, even-money chance of calling Lady Luck's bluff at roulette, I can understand, but save £145,000 in three years? Three centuries and it would still be a close-run thing. As a result, money holds a peculiar fascination. Poor Ramadan Guney has only to be ordered by the High Court to forfeit the £650,000 surety he posted as bail for his old friend Asil Nadir, and my internal abacus goes into overdrive.

How did Guney happen to have £650,000 lying around for the modern equivalent of a rainy day — the day the Serious Fraud Office drops in for breakfast with your best friend? The answer, I presume, must lie with his best-known business asset, Britain's biggest cemetery. As the old line has it: "You can't take it with you . . ." But, clearly, you can spread it around a bit. The unfortunate Guney may be able to pick a business, but he has Michael Jackson's luck when it comes to friends. Which brings us to the expensively absent (at least for Guney) Asil Nadir and the same question. How did he come to build an even larger, multi-million pound fortune by selling oranges and lemons? Ah, I see . . . that's what everybody wants to know.

Geoffrey Knights, the man who put the Al back on the map, is another enigma — at least, to this financial illiterate. Faced with a legal bill estimated at £500,000 after failing to convince a libel jury he had received the approved roadside treatment for an attack of pancreatitis, Knights has had his assets subjected to the closest scrutiny.

A £600,000 Essex house here, an £80,000 Ferrari there, a steamed-up Range Rover somewhere on the A1. As I say, I've never understood money, but friends who do say it sounds like he's good at gearing up. Sure they're right.

Back in the news too was a man whose financial acumen I have long found simply dazzling, Colonel Oliver North. Any man who manages to sell arms to Iran, donate the proceeds to the Contra rebels and who now finds a bit of small change left over to run for the Senate in Virginia demands a certain respect.

Even, perhaps, from Douglas Hurd, who has had a miserable time — first having to deny suggestions of a cover-up to the Scott enquiry into arms-to-Iraq, followed swiftly by having to admit that the Government had given £234 million of aid to the Pergau dam project in Malaysia.

How much easier it might have been for Hurd if he'd gone for the North option, the supergums-for-dams option — quietly selling arms to Iraq and using the proceeds to pay for the Malaysian dam. Who knows, he might even have had some small change left over to fund a leadership challenge in the autumn.

FAITH IN THE CITY

Must survivors of schism, fire and bomb fall to accountants?

The Templeman Commission's report published yesterday will probably have a greater impact on the number of churches in the City of London than any event since the Great Fire. If its recommendations are accepted by Dr David Hope, the Bishop of London, 24 of the 36 churches in the City — many of them architecturally magnificent — may be closed or turned to secular use. The City's ecclesiastical structure will be changed radically.

The five commissioners' professionalism is beyond question. Their work since June 1992 has produced a document of unusual clarity and vigour, which addresses an *undeniable dilemma in the religious life of* the capital. Once a teeming population centre, the square mile now has only 5,000 residents spread thinly across 22 parishes. At a time of straitened Church finances, the diocese of London's annual stipend bill of £7.5 million needs to be trimmed.

Yet religion is not simply a service like *health, education or retail marketing, in* which supply must be fitted as closely as possible to demand and provision organised with the maximum efficiency. Faith should *not be considered in such limited terms. A* national Church must of course respond to the ebb and flow in its popularity. But the Church of England is behaving like a *business in steady decline, which has* recognised that it is providing the wrong kind of goods to uninterested consumers. Its instinct is quietist rather than missionary. *Its realism is close to defeatism.*

The churches of the City have weathered crises far worse than the secular indifference of the late 20th century. Though it is Wren's architecture that gives them their distinctive character, the roots of these religious buildings run much deeper. There has been a Christian church at St Bride's in Fleet Street since the sixth century; St Mary le Bow in Cheapside is first mentioned in 1091. But having survived the Reformation, the Civil War, the religious disputes of the 18th century and the Second World War, both churches may now be absorbed by episcopal *fiat* into the parish of St Bartholomew.

Other institutions will not be so lucky. St Andrew Undershaft in Leadenhall Street, for example, has been placed on the euphemistically-titled "reserve list" of churches likely to be closed. Eight and a half centuries since the first record of its existence, it still *has a healthy congregation which may now* have to find a new religious home.

Because all the churches under review are listed Grade One, none will be knocked down. But a church is more than its structure. Those in the City that cease to offer services may eventually play socially useful roles as libraries or concert halls; but *they will surrender their spiritual identity.* Better that these churches should expand the range of functions they perform than that they close their doors to worshippers.

In considering this report, Dr Hope must ask whether all other options have truly been exhausted. There is a rich seam of good will in the square mile for churchmen to mine; their readiness to seek assistance and forge links with potential benefactors has often been unimpressive. An apparent crisis can be an institution's salvation — as the recent history of London Zoo shows well. The Templeman report will alert the 300,000 people who work in the City to the peril in which the area's churches now find themselves; the bishop should await their response before allowing the axe to fall.

MINIMAL PUNISHMENT

Mr Howard must address disquiet over the Bulger sentence

British law was not devised to deal with ten year old murderers. In ruling on a minimum sentence for the killers of James Bulger, Michael Howard will be in uncharted territory, with precedents almost non-existent. James's parents are understandably distressed at what they see as an inadequate minimum recommendation of eight years by the trial judge, Mr Justice Morland. The ten years recommended by the *Lord Chief Justice seems, also, to outraged* public opinion, scarcely more acceptable.

Some of the anger may be based on misunderstanding of what such a minimum *will mean. Public cynicism has led to the* belief that, in sentencing policy, "minimum" equals "actual": that when a judge stipulates a sentence of *at least* ten years, the defendant *is unlikely to serve more than* that. Many of those who are protesting seem to assume that Venables and Thompson will automatically go free when the minimum time *has elapsed.*

In a determinate sentence of "life" with a recommended minimum of twenty years, the twenty-year period does often become the effective sentence. But in an indeterminate sentence (being detained "at Her Majesty's pleasure") such as these boys have received, the sentence cannot be reduced on remission since it is not of a pre-determined duration. The minimum will be the first point at which a parole board could decide that the two may be safely released. In this case, there will be serious obstacles to any possible parole. It is possible (albeit undesirable) that Thompson and Venables will be as difficult candidates for release as the Moors murderer, Myra Hindley, who has never been granted parole.

The function of a minimum sentence is to establish the retributive and deterrent *element of punishment. A minimum marker* is being set which is intended to reflect what society sees both as sufficient punishment to pay for this act and to deter others from *committing similar ones. In both these* respects, the Bulger murder is highly unusual. In retributive terms, there is a moral quandary: what possible sentence *could suffice to atone for such a crime? But* given its uniquely pathological nature, the need to deter others from doing the same thing, seems unrealistic.

Mr Howard has said that in reaching his decision, he will take public disquiet into account. That unease is as much to do with the place of retribution in punishment generally as with this sentence. But he does not have complete freedom of action: he must attend to the representations of the defendants' solicitors and the professional opinions of the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice. To fail to do so would be to open the way to a judicial review of his decision.

Any future Home Secretary thinking of overturning earlier recommendations will also be limited in his discretionary powers by the possibility of such a review being sought by the defendants. The possibility does not exist, however, for the Bulger family to seek judicial review of a decision with which they disagreed: victims and their families have no status in the criminal justice system. *Sentencing is entirely a* matter for dispute between offenders and the courts. This is an issue in which Mr Howard has expressed an interest. He may put his *decision in this difficult case to good use by* making it a focal point for wider debate.

FIRE NEXT DOOR

Europe cannot ignore the Algerian crisis

Algeria, in the "near abroad" of the European Union (EU), is tearing itself apart. Since the annulment of elections in January 1992, nearly 3,000 people — innocent citizens, foreigners, policemen and Islamic extremists — have been killed. This should alarm the EU. France, Italy and Spain, across the water from the *maghreb* and with serious immigration problems already, are braced for a new flood of Algerians.

The recent "conference for national consensus", organised by Algeria's ruling High Council for Security, ended in failure. The National Liberation Front (FLN), which *ruled the country till 1992, snubbed the* process. So, too, did the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which had been expected to win the 1992 elections and which now holds Algeria to violent ransom. Inevitably, the conference degenerated into a pointless monologue by those already in power.

The FIS has adopted brutal methods. These methods deserve strong condemnation: the systematic murder of civilians, secular intellectuals and moderate Muslims is barbaric. There can be no solution without an unconditional renunciation of violence by them. The government, however, has won no friends by its repressive response. "Death *squads" operate* unchecked and torture is routine. The wide powers available to the state have not halted the slaughter. The FIS, whose formidable grassroots support grows apace, cannot be crushed. *It has* to be won over by negotiation, however unpalatable that is to those who abhor its violence. The *junta* blundered in its refusal to accommodate, at the Conference, the jailed senior leadership of FIS, squandering a chance for bold initiatives.

This Algerian problem is also Europe's problem, and the EU cannot ignore it. An northward exodus is the stuff of nightmares for Charles Pasqua, France's adamantine Interior Minster. The rise of the FIS can be traced to desolate economic conditions in Algeria. The population did not — and, arguably, still does not — want more religion. It wants more jobs, better housing, and a less corrupt administration. Algeria has an external debt of $27 billion, but will earn only $8 billion this year, from the oil and gas on which it is lopsidedly reliant. Its major creditors, France, Italy and Spain, fear large-scale immigration the most and must strive — under the aegis of the EU — to improve people's lives in Algeria.

The most important role for the EU, however, is that of intercessor between the Algerian *junta* and the FIS. It must continue to condemn the methods of the fundamentalists; but to exhort the Algerian government to negotiate is no contradiction, especially as an end to violence would be a *sine qua non* for any settlement. Why should members of the *junta* not meet leaders of the FIS in Paris, or Rome, or Madrid?

A conciliatory role for the EU is vital for another reason. Realism suggests that a government of Islamic orientation, whether elected or revolutionary, will emerge. The EU, *faute de mieux*, would prefer an elected one. Fair elections — and FIS was guilty of intimidation the last time — are the only way to end this crisis. Europe, therefore, must not burn its boats with the FIS. It cannot afford another Iran on its doorstep, with a *revolutionary government in power.* The "good offices" of the EU could be an important force for future Algerian moderation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Appeal eased for parking fines

From the London Parking Director

Sir, You report (January 24) that from July the London Borough of Croydon will be testing a new parking enforcement system based on hand-held computer technology: in fact, all London boroughs, not just Croydon, will be taking over responsibility for parking law enforcement from July (Motoring, January 14).

The first trial commenced in Wandsworth in July 1993 and six other London boroughs have already implemented the new system. It is anticipated that by July almost all parking tickets in London will be issued by hand-held computer and an automatic comparison will be made between the offending vehicle's registration and a "persistent evader" list.

If the vehicle owner has outstanding fines the parking attendant issuing the ticket will be able to radio to base for a wheel-clamping unit to immobilise the vehicle if it is safe to do so — if it is not, the vehicle will be towed away.

Coupled with this improved enforcement system is a new simplified procedure for appeals. Motorists unhappy with a ticket will be able to write to the local council, and, if still unsatisfied, instead of facing an appearance at a magistrates' court and the risk of paying costs, they will be able to ask for a review of the case by an independent adjudicator at no cost to themselves.

There is an important difference from the Los Angeles system your reporter mentioned. In London, only vehicles contravening parking restrictions will be clamped or towed away, and any money raised from fines must be spent on paying for enforcement, improving parking facilities, improving roads, or on public transport investment. Typically, American cities will clamp motorists with outstanding tickets even if they are *parked legally — an arrangement* which would not be acceptable here.

The consequence of these changes in London should produce better traffic flows; safer streets and more places for motorists to park legally, as a result of better and fairer enforcement.

Yours faithfully,
NICK LESTER,
London Parking Director,
Parking Committee for London,
14 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
January 24.

From provincial life

From Mrs Elizabeth Wade

Sir, Simon Jenkins maintains ("Two cheers for Middlemarch", January 22) that the English novel has "scorned *provincial towns" since George Eliot.* But works such as the Clayhanger series (Arnold Bennett), *Sons and Lovers* (D. H. Lawrence), *The Good Companions* (J. B. Priestley), *Room at the Top* (John Braine), *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (Alan Sillitoe) and *A Kind of Loving* (Stan Barstow) reveal a rich and abiding tradition of *novels centred on provincial towns.*

Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock* and John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman* are novels that are set in and around provincial towns of the south and Thomas Hardy put the towns of "Wessex" on the literary map for all time.

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH WADE,
34 Holmwood Avenue, Meanwood,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
January 22.

From Mr Harry Guest

Sir, Simon Jenkins goes too far with his generalisation. Novels set outside London, and neither in universities nor country houses, include *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (Hardy), *To the Lighthouse* (Virginia Woolf), *Kipps* (H. G. Wells), *The Pyramid* (William Golding).

All of them, in my view, are superior to anything produced by Lodge, Bradbury or either Amis.

Yours etc,
HARRY GUEST,
1 Alexandra Terrace, Exeter, Devon.
January 23.

Gas guesswork

From Mr D. B. Amanda

Sir, I received my gas bill the other day and wondered whether any other commercial organisation would dare *to offer such a surrealistic document.*

The gas is measured in cubic feet (although my meter is a new one) and then converted to cubic metres. The heat value of the gas is expressed in megajoules, to conform, I believe, to the recommendations of the International Gas Union, and the price is eventually stated in pence per kilowatt hours, presumably to create a spurious comparison to electricity charges.

Is this really the best that British Gas can do? It scarcely leaves the average consumer in control.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. AMANDA,
St Gennys, Pines Road,
Fleet, Hampshire.
January 21.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Value and meaning of religion in the school timetable

From Dr Colin Howson

Sir, The syllabuses for religious education in schools (reports and leading article, January 26) include discussion of the evidence, in the scriptures and in human experience, for (the Christian) God's existence. If the discussion includes the weighing of that evidence then I do not see how it could avoid the verdict of the eminent philosopher David Hume two and a half centuries ago, that as evidence it is not worth much.

But the general tenor of those syllabuses suggests that the encouragement of an impartial attitude is not to be part of the teachers' brief. To that extent, and despite their protests, the fundamentalists seem to have won a conspicuous victory over those who do *not see it as the function of education* to foster unsupported beliefs, still less to base a moral system on them.

From the educational point of view the time assigned to religious education would be much better spent studying Hume.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HOWSON,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Department of Philosophy, Logic
and Scientific Method,
Houghton Street, WC2.
January 26.

From the Rector of Arthuret

Sir, Few would argue with the point made in your editorial of January 26 that in many areas religious education has been honoured "more in the breach than the observance". Pupils in school deserve better than that, as does society in general.

Many, though by no means all, *committed Christian teachers, and es*pecially at primary school level, have contributed to the problem by teaching a faith that perhaps owed more to their own distant Sunday school memories than to a serious academic subject. Partly in consequence, and partly because of the self-evident pluralism of today's world, many *teachers with little or no religious* faith showed lack of interest or even outright opposition.

Yet religious education is where the belief systems of the past and the present meet. Since everyone is presumably going to evolve throughout life a personal belief system, it is a matter of central importance that they are given adequate tools for the job. Out of these individual beliefs comes that much maligned but basic concept of national consensus.

In the past and even to some extent today the national consensus has been "broadly Christian". This means that neither the presence of a school in a predominantly non-Christian community, nor a teacher who is indifferent to religious belief, should get in the way of giving all the pupils a thorough grounding in the Christian faith that has given so much to our laws, language, institutions and moral framework.

Religious education must ensure that all pupils can approach belief from an informed and tolerant stance, and understand why even today so many people see religious belief as not only relevant but vital to their lives.

Yours etc,
JOHN HIGGINS,
The Rectory, 14 Netherby Road,
Longtown, Carlisle, Cumbria.
January 26.

From Mr James Tysoe

Sir, In the current debate about religious education it appears to have *been accepted that Islam is just another* faith. The record of history — and current events in former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Sudan and Iran, to mention the most prominent — does not support a casual acceptance into British culture of Islamic philosophy.

The weakness of the Protestant Christian Church may suggest that *the certainties of Islamic teachings are* an attractive alternative to those looking for authority and clarity in standards by which to live. It would be wise for those who advocate the relegation of Christianity to stop and reflect on what has happened to the status of women, to individual liberty, the character of law and to freedom of religion itself in countries where Islamic credos have become the dominant authority.

New, and welcome, arrivals to our *country should be positively encour*aged to understand and assimilate the values and traditions that reflect the best British characteristics.

Sincerely,
JAMES TYSOE,
1 Garlinge Road, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
January 27.

From Mr Ibrahim Hewitt

Sir, In your leader (January 26) you state, "six-year-old pupils should know the Easter story before they learn about the prophet Muhammad". If the children referred to are from a Christian background, how right you are. If they are Muslims, however, I beg to differ.

The Department for Education (DFE) issued a draft circular in October last year (we still await the final document) in which it was stated that "syllabuses must not ... urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils" (para 31). How can a syllabus for religious education which must be predominantly Christian do anything but "urge a particular religion" on pupils of all faiths and none?

At the launch of the model RE syllabuses in London (report, January 26) Baroness Blatch reaffirmed that Christianity must be the dominant faith in RE "because that is the law of the land". In the next breath she stated that the final responsibility for RE syllabuses lies with local communities.

How can syllabuses meeting the *needs of local communities in areas* with schools which have majorities of non-Christian pupils fulfil this legal requirement? Even if the model syllabuses produced by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) are not statutory documents, the fact is that the system whereby syllabuses are produced *and agreed locally to match local needs has been* made meaningless by the inclusion of the words Christian and Christianity in legislation and DFE circulars.

Yours faithfully,
IBRAHIM HEWITT
(Assistant Director,
The Muslim Educational Trust),
130 Stroud Green Road, N4.
January 26.

From Mr Peter de Rome

Sir, In the debate over religious education surely it does not matter how many religions are taught as long as it is pointed out that they are all merely hypotheses, and that many now regard religion as a vulgar error which has perhaps caused more misery and suffering than any other idea in the history of the world.

Yours faithfully,
PETER de ROME,
54 High Street, Sandwich, Kent.
January 26.

From Mr M. Tehrani

Sir, If a child is born into a family which is "religious" the chances of its being exposed to the characteristic of that religion are great. On the other hand, if religion is not deemed to be important enough this may well be re*flected in the child's religious belief*, or lack of it.

Pupils should have a choice of attending religious education classes of their liking. If this is forced it may result in alienation.

Yours faithfully,
M. TEHRANI,
4 White Gables, 53 Carlisle Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
January 26.

Tax increases

From Mr John A. Newman and Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sir, Our firm has recently carried out a study to estimate the likely GDP growth in 1994. Our conclusion is that economic growth in 1994 is likely to be becalmed between 1 and 1.25 per cent — principally because of the effect of tax increases in April.

A growth rate this low would be *disappointing for the economy as a* whole, and would also call into question the Government's ability to meet its published target of a reduction in the public sector borrowing requirement to £100 billion for the four years 1994-95 to 1997-98 in aggregate.

In order to assist in achieving the Treasury forecast of 2.5 per cent GDP *growth in 1994, and to improve the* chances of getting a grip on the PSBR without the need for any *further* increases in taxation beyond those already announced, we believe the Chancellor should reduce interest rates to around 4 per cent by March 31, 1994.

Failure to do so will, in our view, *make it impossible to achieve the level* of GDP growth currently forecast by the Treasury. The effect of this will be that the PSBR will remain out of control, with the result that taxes will have to rise to an even higher level than that currently envisaged.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. NEWMAN,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Chantrey Vellacott
(Chartered Accountants),
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.
January 26.

From Mr Simon D. Baggott

Sir, We should not lose sight of the fact that the effective top rate of income tax under the Labour Government in the tax year 1978-79 was 98 per cent, not 83 per cent. This was because investment income surcharge was added at that time to the nominal top rate.

Nor did one have to be immensely wealthy to pay these rates of tax. Taxable income of £23,000 or more, including at least £2,000 from savings or investments, was liable to the effective 98 per cent rate; and in 1978-79 higher rates of income tax became payable when one's taxable income reached £8,000, at which point the marginal rate became 40 per cent.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON D. BAGGOTT,
Tofield Swann & Smythe,
(Solicitors),
14 Figtree Lane, Sheffield 1.
January 24.

Magistrates' courts

From Mr M. J. Calvert, JP

Sir, The Scott enquiry has demonstrated ministers' difficulty in reading multitudinous reports on important matters. Too much paper for them must lead to more decision-making by their civil servants.

But the Lord Chancellor and his *department want tighter control over* magistrates' courts committees, so that they can oversee the way they are administered, change the contracts they choose to make with their clerks and over-rule their freely elected choice of chairman.

This centralisation of control means more rule not by ministers but by unelected civil servants. It is bad for democracy and bad for judicial independence.

Magistrates and justices' clerks throughout the country are united in their opposition to aspects of the Bill, about which strong misgivings were expressed in the House of Lords last week (report, January 19). Peers and members of Parliament should heed their concerns and reject these undemocratic proposals when the Bill comes before their respective Houses for detailed consideration.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. CALVERT,
Ockley Court, Ockley,
Nr Dorking, Surrey.
January 24.

Safety first

From Mr R. A. Jones

Sir, The increase in the number of warnings on consumer products (letters, January 24, 27) is a direct result of the Consumer Protection Act 1987, part I of which implements a European directive on product liability. This makes a supplier or manufacturer of a "defective product" liable for any physical damage it may do to an individual or his personal property.

In judging if a product is defective the courts take into account several circumstances, including whether any warnings or instructions were supplied with the product about how to use it and how not to use it.

It is to be hoped that this law will not lead to the sort of cases in this country that Mr Bernard Levin chronicles from the USA (latest example, article, December 17).

I recently learnt of the award of $7 million to a man injured in a traffic accident while riding his bicycle at night *without lights. The bicycle manufac*turers were found liable for not providing a light as standard equipment, and for not posting a warning that the bicycle *should not be ridden at night* without a light.

I remain, Sir,
your most obedient servant,
DICK JONES,
80 William Smith Close, Cambridge.
January 27.

Westminster housing

From Councillor Mrs Katie Ivens

Sir, By the district auditor's report on alleged gerrymandering in Westminster ten people, including the tragically dead Dr Michael Dutt (report, January 28), have effectively been *found guilty without a fair trial. They* have been publicly denounced and vilified. Before his death former Councillor Dutt stated that he was guiltless — and I know that this was the feeling of many of my fellow councillors and officers.

It is entirely correct that the public interest should be protected from unlawful local government mis-spending. But this should be conducted by a procedure that is fair and seen to be fair. To put right what is wrong and prevent further injustice the Government should institute an enquiry into the procedures of such investigations.

Yours truly,
KATIE IVENS,
49 Ordnance Hill, NW8.
January 28.

Cystitis and drug costs

From Dr J. D. Kerr

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford's Medical *Briefing, "Easing an all-too-common* complaint" (January 20), raises an increasingly frequent dilemma faced by GPs. The new "improved" treatment for cystitis, the single-dose sachet of Monuril, costs £5.95 to the NHS. A course of the "old" but adequate seven-day treatment of Trimethoprim costs 47p. Even the most recent, seven-day Cephradine costs £4.04.

All these new better drugs are being thrust upon us, and we are being encouraged (and compelled) to cut our *drug budget. Has anyone got an* answer?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN KERR,
14a Rectory Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
January 21.

Aid merry-go-round

From Mr Robert Hards

Sir, How does international aid work? As I understand it, "hard-up" Britain qualifies for aid from the EC worth £1.6 billion (report, January 27). At the *same time, this country is wealthy* enough to give some £234 million aid to Malaysia (report, January 27). In turn, Malaysia appears, from the *same report* to be not so poor that it cannot afford to spend £1 billion on arms.

Confused? No doubt I will be.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARDS,
Admirals Court, 9 Copper Row, SE1.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 28: The Prince Edward, President, this afternoon attended the Inaugural Luncheon of the Lord's Taverners Surrey Region at the Civic Hall, Guildford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton).

His Royal Highness later opened the Surrey Care Trust's building, the Crescent, Woking.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

The Prince Edward was represented by Mrs Richard Warburton at the Memorial Service for Lady Holdsworth which was held at St Paul's, Covent Garden, London WC2 today.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, Stockholm, 1688; *Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician*, Groningen, 1700; Thomas Paine, radical and writer, Thetford, Norfolk, 1737; Henry Neele, poet, London, 1798; Sir James Outram, general, Butterley Hall, Derbyshire, 1803; William McKinley, 25th American President 1897-1901, Niles, Ohio, 1843; Sir Ebenezer Howard, pioneer of garden cities, London, 1850; Anton Chekhov, playwright, Tagarov, Russia, 1860; Frederick Delius, composer, Bradford, 1862; Romain Rolland, novelist, Nobel laureate 1915, Clamecy, France, 1866; *Vicente Blasco Ibáñez*, writer and politician, Valencia, 1867; Havergal Brian, composer, Dresden, Staffordshire, 1876; W.C. Fields, actor and comedian, Philadelphia, 1880.

DEATHS: Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln 1660-63, Buckden, Huntingdon, 1663; King George III, reigned 1760-1820, Windsor, 1820; Edward Lear, poet and artist, San Remo, Italy, 1888; Alfred Sisley, painter, Monet-sur-Loing, 1899; Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, field-marshal, London, 1928; James Bridie (Osborne Henry Mavor), dramatist, Edinburgh, 1951; Henry Louis Mencken, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1956; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, New York, 1962; Robert Frost, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1963; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, California, 1980.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, statesman, Westminster, 1628; Walter Savage Landor, writer, Warwick, 1775; Francis Herbert Bradley, philosopher, London, 1846; Sir Seymour Hicks, actor-manager, St Helier, Jersey, 1871; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd American President 1933-45, New York, 1882.

DEATHS: Georges de La Tour, painter, Lunéville, 1652, King Charles I, reigned 1625-49, executed Whitehall, London, 1649; Charles Bradlaugh, politician and free-thinker, London, 1891; Orville Wright, pioneer aviator, Dayton, Ohio, 1945; Mahatma Gandhi, Indian political and religious leader, assassinated New Delhi, 1948; Francois Poulenc, composer, Paris, 1963.

A Nazi government, led by Adolf Hitler, was formed in Germany, 1933.

Weekend birthdays

Today

Dr R.C. Alston, bibliographer, 61; Mr Malcolm Binns, concert pianist, 58; Mr Leslie Bricusse, composer and lyricist, 63; Major-General Sir George Burns, 83; Mr Peter Byrne, actor, 66; Lord Clyde, 62; Dr Alec Coppen, psychiatrist, 71; the Right Rev Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Abbot of Downside, 53; Mr John Gallagher, rugby league player, 30; Dr Germaine Greer, author, 55; Lord Gregson, 70; Professor F.R. Hartley, vice-chancellor, Cranfield Institute of Technology, 52; Mr Paul Hodder-Williams, publisher, 84; Earl Howe, 43; Mr John Junkin, actor and writer, 64; Mr Sean Kerly, hockey player, 34; Mrs Margaret Laird, Third Church Estates Commissioner, 61; Lord Lane of Horsell, 69; Mr Michael Mavor, headmaster, Rugby School, 47; Mr Richard Needham, MP, 52; Mr James Nicholson, MEP, 49; Mr Andy Roberts, cricketer, 43; Professor Abdus Salam, theoretical physicist, 68; Mr Tom Selleck, actor, 49; Mr Raman Subba Row, former chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 62; Viscount Tonypandy, 85; Mr Brian Trubshaw, former test pilot, 70; Mr Israel Wetrin, managing director, Elonex, 47.

Tomorrow

Sir Herbert Ashworth, former chairman, Nationwide Building Society, 84; Mr Jack Bowman, chief constable, Tayside, 63; Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP, 69; Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, former Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, 77; Mr Phil Collins, rock singer, drummer and actor, 43; Miss Christina Foyle, book seller, 83; Mr Nick Gaselee, racehorse trainer, 55; Mr Justice Gatehouse, 70; Mr Patrick Heron, painter, 74; Mr Christopher Howes, Crown Estate Second Commissioner, 52; the Earl of Huntingdon, 46; Mr David Lidington, MP, 38; Viscount Long, 65; Lord Lowry, 75; Mr Bob Mudditmer, chairman, Ranks Hovis McDougall, 61; Sir Foley Newns, former colonial administrator, 85; Professor A.G. Ogston, former president, Trinity College, Oxford, 83; Mr Louis Osman, architect, artist and goldsmith, 80; Mr Hal Prince, theatrical director and producer, 66; Mr John Profumo, president, Toynbee Hall, 79; Miss Vanessa Redgrave, actress, 57; Lord Westwood, 50.

Memorial services

Mr L.E. Evershed-Martin

The Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Leslie Eric Evershed-Martin held yesterday in Chichester Cathedral. The Dean of Chichester officiated, assisted by the Precentor.

Mr Keith Baxter read the lesson. Mr David Evershed-Martin, son, read from George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss* and Lady Olivier read from Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Mr Patrick Garland gave an address.

General Sir Philip Christison

A memorial service for General Sir Philip Christison was held yesterday in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. The Very Rev Graham Forbes, provost, officiated and the Rev J. Harkness, Chaplain General to the Forces, led the prayers.

Major-General M.I.E. Scott, General Officer Commanding Scotland, and Brigadier N.J. Ridley read the lessons. Viscount Slim, President of the Burma Star Association, and Lieutenant-Colonel D.J.S. Murray, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, gave addresses.

The Right Rev Edward Luscombe pronounced the blessing. Mrs Isabel Mieras, clarsach, played a lament for Sir Philip.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Duchess of Kent will present the *Evening Standard* British Film awards for 1993 at the Savoy Hotel at 7.05.

Luncheon

HM Government

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister for Transport at the Scottish Office, was host yesterday at a luncheon held at Bute House, Edinburgh, for the Scottish Transport Group.

Reception

HM Government

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Minister for Health at the Scottish Office, was host last night at a reception held at the Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine, for Ayrshire and Arran Health Board staff.

Dinner

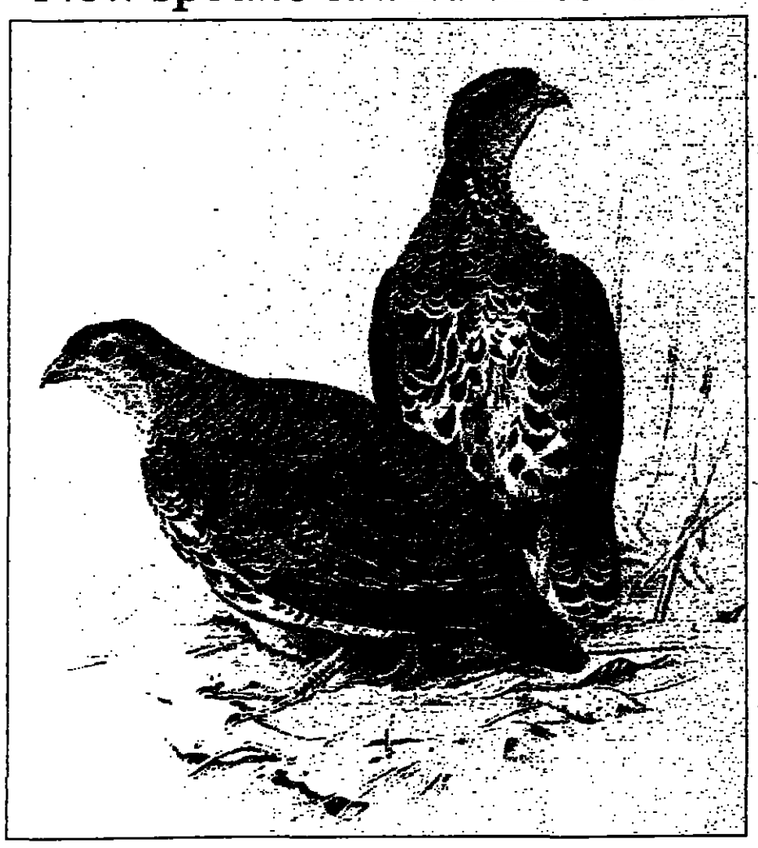
Architects and Surveyors Institute

Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, an Honorary Fellow of the Architects and Surveyors Institute, entertained the London region of the institute and their guests, the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, at dinner last night at the House of Commons. Mr Peter G. Matthews, chairman of the region, presided. Ms Lucy Stewart, Mr Anthony Simonds-Gooding and Mr Martyn Lewis also spoke. The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Major A.A. Bianco and the president of the institute attended.

Appointment

Peter John Selwyn Rawson to be a full-time Registrar in Bankruptcy from January 31.

New species of bird discovered



THIS NEW species of bird, which looks rather like a small partridge, has been found in Tanzania (Nigel Hawkes writes). It was discovered in the evergreen forests more than 4,000ft up in the Udzungwa Mountains by five scientists from the zoological museum at Copenhagen University. The area is rich in unusual birds.

In *Ibis*, the journal of the British Ornithologists' Union, the scientists say that not only is the bird an unknown species, but that in addition it does not belong to any existing genus (group) of birds. That means that it creates a new genus of its own, a rare event in the bird world. They have given it the name *Xenoperdix udzungwensis* — strange partridge from Udzungwa.

The Danish team, led by Dr Lars Dinesen, first saw four or five. Later, many more were seen and locally the species seems plentiful. The team thinks they are the sole survivors of a bird that was common all the way up the African coast and into Asia.

(Drawing by Martin Woodcock)

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Acott and Miss L.J. Merrill

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr Dennis Acott, of Mersham, Surrey, and Mrs Christine Paterson, of Sutton, Surrey, and Louise Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Morrill, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C. Courtauld and Miss L.K. Alexander

The engagement is announced between Charlie, son of Mr and Mrs G. Courtauld, of Colne Engaine, Essex, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.D. Alexander, of Primrose Hill, London, formerly of Henley on Thames.

Mr A.C.M. Hill and Miss S.F. King

The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs P.M. Hill, of Tenterden, Kent, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr P.W. King, of *Harrow, Middlesex, and the late* Mrs V.J. King.

Mr T.A. Ringo and Miss J.J. Handscomb

The engagement is announced between Timothy Alan, eldest son of Mr Charles P. Ringo, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Mrs Frederick Engelhardt, of Dayton, Ohio, and Jennifer Jean, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter (Michael) Handscomb, of Epsom Downs, Surrey.

Mr P.R. Rudaz and Miss K.D. Brooks

The engagement is announced between Patrick Roger, elder son of Mrs Mary Rose Rudaz, of Trélex, Switzerland, and Katie Delandre, elder daughter of the late Robert Brooks and of Mrs Anne Brooks, of Church Hanborough, Oxfordshire.

Mr A. Seredynj and Miss E.L. Myatt

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr Stefan Seredynj, of Lincoln, and Emma Louise, elder daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel James Myatt, CVO, and of Mrs Hugh de Fonblanque, of Bathelton, Somerset.

Mr F.J. Innes and Miss L.J. Budge

The engagement is announced between Fraser, eldest son of Mr and Mrs I.R. Innes, of Caunton, Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Lindsay, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.F. Budge, of Osberton Hall, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Mr R.P. Kraushaar and Miss K.A. Liebson

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Kraushaar, of Ilford, Essex, and Katherine, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Ira Liebson, of Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Mr D. Macleod and Miss E.J. Martin

The engagement is announced between Donnie, son of Mrs Isabella Macleod, of Stornoway, Lewis, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Martin, of Caterham, Surrey.

Mr A.V. McCleery and Miss S.J. Bishop

The engagement is announced between Alasdair Valentine, son of Mr and Mrs Colin McCleery, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Samantha Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Bishop, of Mawgan-in-Meneage, Cornwall.

Mr I.A. Perry and Miss J.L. Allen

The engagement is announced between Ian Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Perry, of Belchamp St Paul, Suffolk, and Joanna Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Allen, of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire.

Mr I.A. Ryan and Miss A.J.H.L. Adams

The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr Frank Ryan and of Mrs Joan Ryan, of Sydney, Australia, and Antonia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Adams, of Leafield.

Mr J.A.V. Smith and Miss S.R. Hearne

The engagement is announced between Julian, only son of Mr and Mrs Neil Smith, of Appledore, Kent, and Suzanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hearne, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Oxfordshire.

Church services tomorrow

Ninth Sunday before Easter

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev JF Cowling; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), Rev A Watson; 3.15 E, Gloucester S (Howells); 6.30 S&C, Rev PGC Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 11 S Euch (ITV), Canzona (Bach), Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Carillon-Sortie (Mulet), The Bishop.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Canon Paul Brett; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon Paul Brett; 6 Choral E, Wasson in: E, Canon Peter Southwell-Sander.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Rev Canon Godfrey Hall; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor, Rev Kenneth Woolhouse; 3.30 E, Rubbra in A flat.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Stanford in C & F, Very Rev John Petty; 5.30 E, Leighton in G.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Boyce in C, Canon Brown; 11.15 HC, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), The Dean; 3.30 E, Second Service (Byrd), Prelude and Fugue in C sharp minor (Bach).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Jubilate (Howells), The Lord Bishop; 3.45 E, Bairstow in D.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Haydn in B flat, Mr Anthony Green; 4 Choral E, Purcell in G minor.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Lit; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Sarum Mass (Leighton), The Chancellor; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, Canon EB Greathead; 3.45 E, Murrill in E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Bell Amfortit altera (Lassus), Jubilate (Weelkes), The Dean; 3.30 E, Dyson in D.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 H Euch; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 11 S Euch, Mozart in C, The Canon; 12.15 H Euch; 3.30 Choral E, Bairstow in D; 6.30 S, Advent to Candlemas.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Librarian; 10 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), The Bishop; 6 E, Purcell in E minor, Prelude in F minor (Bach), The Librarian.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Regina Coeli (Palestrina), Rev V Roberts; 11.30 M, Ave Maria (Bleby); 3 E, Collegium Regale (Crull), In pace (Sheppard), Rev CM Bonneywell.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Canon Colin Semper; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), The Dean; 3 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Rev Jeremy Caddick; 5.45 Organ Rec, David Drury; 6.30 ES, Rev Fr Alan Gratinge.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7, 9; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn M, Missa Vidi Speciosam (Victoria), The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar), Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir (Bach); 3.30 V&B, *Magnificat primi toni* (Palestrina); 4.30 Organ Rec, Iain Simcock.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Darke in F, Canon Ralph Mayland; 11.30 M, Britten in C; 4 E, Jackson in G, Rev Leon Carberry; 6.30 S.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Prelude & Fugue in E minor (Bach), The Dean.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 6 LM; 10 Family M; 11.30 Solemn M, Fr Anthony Barratt.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Rev David MacLeod; 11.30 MS, Rev Fiona Douglas; 6 Haddington School Recorder Gp; 8 ES, Rev Dr J Philip Newell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Vaughan Williams in G, Purcell in B flat, Rev Michael Saward; 11.30 HC, Darke in F; 3.15 E, Nicholson in D flat, Rt Rev Richard Chartres.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 S, Rev Christopher Hobbs; 6.30 S, Rev Andy Rider.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev James Schmidt.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa Lauda Sion (Palestrina), My soul there is a country (Parry), Regina coeli (Soriano).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children's S; 11 M, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams); 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 S, Rev Stanley Hood.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Mr Jeremy Barnes; 11 Informal S, Rev Nicholas Gumbel; 6.30 Informal S, Rev Sandy Millar.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 S, Rev Dr John Gladstone; 6.30 Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Ronald T England; 7 Lutheran Choral V, Herr nun lassest du deinen Diener (Buxtehude), Rev Jerry Wilcox.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Short Service (Byrd), Preb Michael Shrewsbury; 6.30 E, Short Service (Byrd), Rev Anthony Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Britten in C, Stimulon in F, Canon John Oates; 6.30 Choral E, 3 motets by Anton Bruckner, Rev Rob Marshall.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 HC, Rev W Alexander Cairns; 3 HC, Rev Eleanor J McMahon; 6.30 S, Rev John H McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Sung M, Messe cum Jubilo (Durufle), St Ludgatines (Wesley), Fr. Kit Cunningham.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Pappa Marcelli (Palestrina), Rev Bill Wilson; 6 Choral E, Blow in the Dorian mode, Crown of Roses (Tchaikovsky), Robin Farrow.

ST JUDE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 HC, Messe cum jubilo (Durufle), Rev Derek Watson; 6.30 S, Rev Gerald Beauchamp.

ST MARGARET'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev Joanna Yates.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M, Boyce in C, Alcock in E, Sister Hilary Markey; 12.15 HC.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev William Ramsbotham; 11.30 Visitors to London S, Rev John Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese S, Rev Gilbert Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Sancti Josephi (Caldara), Canon Gordon Reid; 6 Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC, 10.30 Parish Euch, Short Service (Batten), Mr John Wilkinson; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Maria Magdalene (Lobo), Rev Christine Owen.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Communion Service in C (Stanford), Rev Desmond Tillyer.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Sine Nomine (Hassler), Rev Fr Ashley Buck.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Sumsion in F, Canon Christopher Cohen; 6 EP&B.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Britten in E, Canon JGMW Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8 HC; 11.15 MP, The heavens are telling (Haydn), Canon S Goodridge.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Savoy: Closed. **Queen's Palace:** 8.30 HC; 11 M, Stanford in C; 3.30 E, Darke in F.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Munera (Palestrina); Adoramus te...

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Stanford in C, Rev Peter Harding.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 HC, Darke in F.

GUARDS' CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Thou art O Lord (Attwood), Band of the Coldstream Guards, Rev Stephen Parnell; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), The Chaplain.

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And from time to time Jesus would withdraw to remote places for prayer. St Luke 5 . 16 (REB)

BIRTHS

A'COURT - See Atkins.

ATKINS - On January 21st, to Christine A'Court and Nicolas Atkins, a daughter, Lauren Clara.

BARRON - To Heather (née Grant) and David, on 20th January, a son, Thomas William, a brother for James.

CARNEGIE-BROWN - On January 26th 1994 at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Jane (née Sparrow) and Bruce a daughter Charlotte Katherine and a son Robert Alexander, a sister and brother for James and Angus.

COLES - On January 26th to Alexandra and Andrew a beautiful son, William Barrington, weighing 8lbs 7½ oz.

COOK - On January 28th to Louise (née Garvey) and Alistair, a son Joshua at St David's Hospital, Bangor, North Wales.

DAGLISH - On January 24th to Joy (née Skinner) and Ian a daughter, Hazel Elizabeth.

DESPARD - On January 24th to Patrick and Edwina (née Piper), a son, William Charles Macmillan.

RICHMOND - Freya Rose born 18th January at home to Suzy and Rudi (née Wood), sister to Georgia and Grace.

ROSIER - On January 21st at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn to Kate (née Johnson) and Nick, a daughter, Polly, a sister for Henry and Harriet.

STEPHENSON - ON 27th January 1994, at St Helier Hospital, to Ann Marie (née Lahteria) and John, a daughter, Francesca Catherine.

DEATHS

BARKER - At Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 28th January 1994, Major Harrison Barker M.B.E., widower of Clare, sadly missed by his own and Clare's family and by his many friends in the Seaforth Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders. Service at Perth Crematorium on Wednesday 2nd February at 2.30 pm, to where all friends are respectfully invited. A Memorial Service will be held at Fort George on a date to be later advised by the Regiment. All other enquiries to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Cuduthel Road, Inverness. No flowers please. Donations in lieu to the Seaforth Highlanders Association.

DEATHS

ALSTON - Peacefully at the residence of her son, "Torwood", Main Street, Tomintoul, on Thursday January 27th, 1994, Maria Crowley, F.R.C. Path. M.Sc. aged 75 years. Dearly beloved wife of the late Maxwell, a much loved mother of David and grandmother of Emily, Elizabeth and Edward. Funeral private at her own request

DAVY - Eileen Frances. Religious of the Sacred Heart Order. Died Thursday 27th January 1994 Mass on Wednesday 2nd February at 2 pm at Duchesne House, Roehampton

EDE - On January 27th peacefully at home after an illness bravely borne, Patricia beloved sister of Diana, much loved sister in law, aunt and great aunt. Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Filkins at 2pm on Saturday February 5th and simultaneously a Memorial Meeting for worship at the Friends Meeting House, Burford. No flowers by request but donations if required to the Burford Community Hospital Comforts Fund, c/o E Taylor & Son, 19A Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon Tel.0993 842421.

GILLESPIE - On January 27th 1994 after 14 years of extraordinary courage, peacefully in York, Valerie, beloved wife of the late Derek, adored mother of Belinda and loving grandmother to Jessica, Amelia, Lucinda and Philippa Loved and admired by her brother and four sisters and so many, many friends Funeral Service Tuesday February 1st at 2.30 pm at St Nicholas's Church, Stillington, York Family flowers only

GOLDSACK - Charlotte Mermetta (née Richards) Peacefully, at the Toronto Hospital, Canada, on Tuesday, January 25th, 1994, in her 86th year. Beloved wife of the late George MacDonald Goldsack. Loving mother of Ronald MacDonald Goldsack and his wife, Linda. Dear grandmother of Lara, Gail, Greg, and step-grandmother of Kimberley. The Chins Lady, a longtime resident of the Far East, will be sadly missed by her friends in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom. A private family service was held in Toronto on Friday, January 28th, 1994.

GREIG - On 4th January in his garden at Dairsie in Fife, John Greig M.A., F.S.A. (Scot), aged 71, widower of Jean. Reconnaissance Corps 1940-45, Colonial Service Nyasaland and Aden, late of Bell Baxter High School, Cupar. A gifted teacher and man of many interests, remembered by friends of all ages for his wisdom, warmth and style. Interred at Ballater.

DEATHS

GRIGGS - Cedric William. Died 18th January 1994 aged 83 years. Widower of Mary Minto and father of Diana. Formerly headmaster of St. Matthew's, Beechwood and Ramridge Junior Schools, Luton. Chairman of Luton Borough Magistrates and member of the Burnham Committee, the Army Education Board and the Bedfordshire Police Authority. A private funeral has taken place but donations, if desired, may be sent in his memory to, the *Sue Ryder Home, St Johns, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire.*

HOLLINGSWORTH - On 26th January at Menelge Hospital, Helston formerly of Hefford, Douglas Tast 86 years. Chartered Engineer, past Chairman I.E.E. and Director of B.I.C.C. Much loved by family, friends and colleagues. Funeral Service at Manaccan Parish Church, Cornwall, Monday 31st at 11 am. Donations to Cancer Research via Funeral Directors, Roskilly & Gilbert, Constrack, Helston, Cornwall TR12 6SX

HOPKINSON - John Fountaine 'Jack' D.S.O., T.D. D.L., peacefully on 27th January 1994 at Balla Wray Nursing Home, Ambleside. Survived by his son Michael, grandchildren Lorna and Edward and great grandchild Maxim. Private cremation. Memorial Service in the Spring of which details will be announced.

HUNTER - On 27th January, Grace Robertson, aged 81. Beloved wife of Jock, mother of David, Priscilla, Fiona and Laurie. Funeral at Bongrove Priory Church, Friday 4th February at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Friends of the Elderly, 42 Ebury Street, London SW1 W0LZ

JONES - On 27th January 1994, peacefully in his sleep, aged 73 years, Robert Hindle, 16 Gail Rise, Llangwm, Haverfordwest. Loved husband of Doreen and father of Diana and Robert.

MORGAN - On 21st January, at Lincoln's Inn, London, Edna Janet, wife of the late Glyn Morgan, deeply mourned by her son and daughter, William and Claire and by her grandchildren John and Josephine and all the family. Private funeral on 9th February. Any flowers please to J.H. Kenyon, 69 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA

MORRIS - née Welch Phyllis Wynsome died at the Old Prebendal House, Shipton-Under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire on Thursday January 27th 1994, aged 85 years. Wife of the late George Kenneth Morris, mother of Vicky, Bill, Stephen and Ben. Cremation to take place at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday February 4th at 1.30 pm. Donations may be sent to The Samaritans if desired.

DEATHS

OKELL - On 28th January 1994, after a long illness, tenaciously fought, Louise Hope, beloved wife of Philip and wonderful mother of Charlie and Olivia. Thanksgiving Service on Friday 4th February at 2 pm at St Boniface Church, Bunbury, Cheshire. No flowers please, but any donations to Tarporley War Memorial Hospital, Tarporley, Cheshire.

RABY - On January 27th peacefully at *Coulshead Grange*, Bardsea, near Ulverston, Cumbria, Doris the only daughter of the late Mr & Mrs Richard Raby, also dear friend of Miriam Hall and the late Mabel Ann Hall. Age cannot wither, nor custom stale her infinite variety'. Service in Bardsea Church at 3 pm on Monday January 31st prior to cremation at Thorncliffe Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations may be left for Church Funds.

SCOTT - Ruth (née Moorsom), beloved wife of Tony, mother of Richard and Michael, peacefully at Dalecare Nursing Home near Devizes on January 29th 1994, aged 88 years. The Funeral Service is at All Saints Church, West Lavington, Devizes on Wednesday February 2nd 1994 at 2.00pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired in her memory to Alzheimers Disease Research Fund c/o John Stuart Funeral Service, Castle Farm Hillworth Road, Devizes. Tel 0380 723685.

SHIRREFF - Winifred Mary, of Harbour House, West Bay and previously of the Grey Cottage, Aldermaston, peacefully in hospital on 26th January 1994 aged 91 years. Beloved aunt of John and great aunt of Alice and Lucy. Funeral at Aldermaston Church on Friday February 4th at 2 pm. Flowers or donations (for Aldermaston Church) if desired to A. J. Wakely & Sons, 91 East Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6

SMITH - Mary T. Fell asleep on 25th January 1994. Loving mother and grandmother to Yve, Michael, Penny, Emmy, Sam, Alex and Charlotte. "The colour came into her like springtime". God bless.

WAITE - Terence Patrick McMahon, in hospital, aged 80. Much loved husband of Judith, proud father of Mary, Anne, Peter and John and a devoted grandfather. The funeral will be on Tuesday 1st February at St Michael's Church, Aymho at 2 pm (and a Memorial Service will be held later at (address) no flowers please. Donations to the Scanner Appeal, Horton General Hospital, Oxford Road, Banbury OX16 9AL.

DEATHS

WARNER - On 27th January, peacefully at Greenwell House, Bedale. Formerly of Park Street, Masham. Priscilla Mary, aged 88 years (née Ellingford), sister of the late Harold David (Priest) Ellingford. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Masham at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 1st February followed by interment at Winksley Church Yard. No flowers please. Donations if desired to SHELTER.

WESTCOTT - On January 25th, peacefully after a long illness so bravely borne, Kenneth Douglas, beloved husband of Jennifer and dearly loved father of Belinda and Jonathan, and grandpa of James and Sophie. Cremation at Chelmsford Crematorium January 31st for family only. Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, High Ongar on Tuesday February 8th at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15/19 Britten St., SW3 3TZ. Tel.071-351 7811

WILLIAMS - Rodney Peter on 27th January aged 54, peacefully in Bath Clinic, after a protracted illness. A man of great humour, determination and courage. Private cremation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAPT CHRISTOPHER MORETON KNIGHT MNI 1934-1995

I Sim Knight wish to express my sincere thanks to all those who attended the Memorial Service at Rochester Cathedral on the evening of the 25th of January, for my beloved husband Christopher Knight.

My very special thanks go to the Dean of Rochester, Lady Mountbatten of Burma, Capt Neil Baird Murray (Director of the Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa) for organising a wonderful service that my son Peter and I will always be proud of

My thanks also to Major RPA Sir Bernard Sonnet, Mr Colin Webber (Chairman of the Victoria League) and Mr John Stanley for their personal tributes and to family, friends and members of the Victoria League, Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa for travelling far and wide to pay tribute to a very special man.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CASHELL - A Memorial Service for Geoffrey Thomas Willoughby Cashell FRCS Ophthalmic Surgeon will be held in the Chapel of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading on Saturday February 12th at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

HACKETT - Cliff 29th Jan 1985. Most lovingly remembered this day and every day. Joanne and Adam.

NASSAR - Remy. We all miss you.

ROWLANDSON - Sir Stanley Graham. Jan 29th 1986. Sadly missed and always remembered - Vera, Richard, Elizabeth and Edward.

SENTA MARMAU - Remembered with green and white snowdrops.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULTS survey to crosswords and clues will reveal best action

GERMAN schoolboy, 12 years, wants a 2/3 week stay (end of July / August 94) with family, preferably with boy of same age and interest to consolidate the German family in the South of Germany (Allgau/Lake Konstanz area). If parents interested, please Reply to Box No 0800

LARRY/CROSSBOW Tanks. Please contact Jacobs & Jansen Solicitors in Australia immediately. Phone (07) 221 1177.

URGENT Any person having papers implied in the work-place of the late Mrs Enid Wood-Cox of Cranbourne, Bobbinswitty, should please please please to Mrs J Wardle-Atkins, Healey Hall, Rating Hill, Northumberland, NE43 0BH with the most accurate description possible.

USA SUMMER JOBS - ranches, resorts etc Directory listing 20,000 jobs in WH Stream etc at £9.95 or from Vac Work, 9 Park End St, Oxford.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The courageous volunteers of the RNLI save over 1,400 lives every year.

Their bravery is free, but logistics are not. Please remember them in your Will.

If you would like to help them help others by having a legacy, however small, our free booklet on making a will puts you here. For your copy, or further details, contact Anthony Oliver, Dept. CFR/I, (TT6), RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HA. Or telephone: (0202) 671133.

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OBITUARIES

DONALD MILNER

Donald Milner, BBC foreign correspondent, died on January 24 aged 71. He was born on January 6, 1923.



Milner covering the civil war in the Congo in 1961

WHEN, in his last dispatch in the BBC's *From Our Own Correspondent* series, Donald Milner reflected that journalism was "not a career but a chapter of accidents, not a profession but a happening" he may have had in mind a fortuitous event much earlier in his career.

In 1961 he was assigned to cover the civil war in the Congo. Having missed his plane for Elisabethville, capital of rebel Katanga, he flew instead to Nairobi and, hiring a plane there (these were still the spacious days of the BBC), arrived at Ndola, on the border of Katanga and Northern Rhodesia, to find the airfield ablaze with light and busy with officials waiting to receive Dag Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who was due to fly in there for a meeting with the secessionist President Tshombe. The party waited in vain. The next day the Secretary-General's body was found a few miles away in the wreckage of his plane. By the throw of chance Milner had a scoop for the BBC.

Donald Rigby Milner was born, the second son in a family of four of a country parson, and raised at Warden, Northumberland, a part of the world he loved to return to. From Haileybury he volunteered for the Royal Navy in 1942, foregoing a year at Oxford before his call-up. He served for four years, from ordinary seaman to lieutenant-in-command in motor torpedo boats, patrolling from the North Sea and the Mediterranean out to Eastern waters.

He went up to Keble in 1946, switching from Modern Languages to Modern History (he had a natural flair for languages which he always nurtured wherever he was posted). From Oxford he went first to *The Times Educational Supplement* where he served a civilising apprenticeship under Walter James, which he greatly valued. He joined the BBC in 1954 as a radio and television reporter (before the news services were separated). His most memorable early assignment was to travel in late 1956 with the Fuchs expedition in the *Magga Dan* across the Weddell Sea to the Antarctic base at Shackleton from which the historic crossing was to be made to meet Hilary at the pole, coming from the other side. Milner was the only journalist accepted by the expedition (he also represented *The Times*), perhaps because of his naval experience.

For three years, from 1969, he was number two in Paris to Peter Raleigh and in 1966 he got the posting he most wanted as South Asia correspondent, based in New Delhi. He ranged constantly round his vast parish, sometimes on his own, sometimes on safari with his growing family and friends. One of his principal reasons for seeking a series of foreign postings was that it enabled him to put his young children into local schools so that they would absorb foreign languages naturally and, like him, grow up indifferent to the colour of people's skins, their nationality and their status in society.

Back in London for nine years after 1970 he was, at first, unhappy to find himself for a while in jobs which involved team and committee work which did not suit his style. He did not enjoy arriving at decisions by patient discussion. He was at his best on his own. Indeed, one reason he preferred radio to television was that it did not involve responsibility for the members of a camera crew (he also disliked the lack of privacy which television correspondents suffered).

For a time he was also editor of Radio 3's *The Positive World*, a weekly programme devoted (before its time perhaps) to the presentation of good news. It served mainly to confirm what most people suspected, that good news is no news. Of his shorter postings during this period, his drive in 1974 with the British famine relief convoy from Algeria across the Sahara to its southern stricken Sahelian zone in the Republic of Niger most moved him. He had come to know famine years earlier, and to pity its victims, in Bihar and Bangladesh.

From this experience came his memorable report for Radio 3, *A Mouthful of Dust* (the title, characteristically, derived not from Waugh but from Eliot). Here his deep, unsentimental compassion for all suffering and unhappiness came through, lit up by his polymathic love of literature. Not many journalists could produce references to Lady Hester Stanhope, Omar Khayyam and Saint-Exupery in a single sentence without the appearance of straining for effect. He was happier after 1976 when he was, for three years, diplomatic and court correspondent. His last foreign posting was to Brussels as chief Europe correspondent until his retirement in 1983.

Milner was without guile; he was devoted to the presentation of truth for its own sake. He never attempted to raise the temperature in an interview. To achieve what he wanted he relied on his own art in "describing what you can see and hear" in language both vivid and simple with a vocabulary rich enough always to provide him with exactly the right word, all delivered in an unhurried voice of rare natural beauty, the talk simply of a well-read Englishman. He was a fine example of BBC integrity in its heyday.

Paradoxically, he was, personally, very strongly opinionated on every subject which reached his ear or caught his eye: and pretty intolerant, though without being dogmatic or predictable. All this made his company a wonderfully energetic and never-ending hazard for the huge harvest of friends he had garnered from across the world. What never ceased to surprise those who knew him well was that a man so sure of the good sense of his own opinions never, even for a moment, allowed them to intrude before the microphone. He had no thought of being himself a "personality" and the idea that a question might be barbed or an innuendo inserted to create a confrontation was repugnant to him. He was, simply, a public servant with great skills as a communicator and total integrity.

In retirement in Oxfordshire he devoted himself to his family. He is survived by Anne, his wife of 36 years, and their four children.

THE REV PROFESSOR JOHN MARSH

The Rev Professor John Marsh, CBE, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, 1953-70, died on January 26 aged 89. He was born on November 5, 1904.



JOHN MARSH was largely responsible for the postwar redevelopment and expansion of Mansfield College. A prominent biblical scholar, theologian and translator from the German, he was also influential in the ecumenical movement and in the planning of religious broadcasting in independent television.

Marsh was born in Brighton but was brought up at East Grinstead and went to the Skinners' Company School at Tunbridge Wells. Although as a boy he had sung in the parish church choir, he later joined the Congregational church at East Grinstead and decided to train for the Congregational ministry. He entered the Yorkshire United Independent College at Bradford. Through its old-established association with Edinburgh University, its students went there first to take an arts degree. Marsh took the honours degree in philosophy with conspicuous success, acting as assistant to Professor A. E. Taylor in his final year. After doing theology at Bradford, he studied further at Mansfield in Oxford and rounded off his preparation with a year at Marburg.

In 1932 he became lecturer at Westhill College, Selly Oak, Birmingham, where he met his future wife, Gladys Walker, who belonged to a Cumberland Quaker family. They married in 1934 and moved to the Congregational church at Otley in Yorkshire where, despite his being incapacitated for several months by serious illness, they enjoyed a singularly happy ministry. Inevitably, however, academic life reclaimed him in 1938 to become chaplain and a tutor at Mansfield. There he was able to teach extensively and to specialise increasingly in biblical studies.

In 1949 he was appointed as the first Professor of Theology at Nottingham University but it was not long before Mansfield called him back to succeed Nathaniel Micklem in 1953 as principal.

Mansfield was then not itself part of the university but all its regular students had to belong to the university through membership of other colleges. Oxford was rapidly expanding and, with the pressure on places, this arrangement could no longer be guaranteed. It was, therefore, decided that it should become part of the university as a permanent private hall, admitting a majority of non-theological students. The university's readiness to embrace the proposal testified to the esteem in which Marsh and Mansfield were held.

The change certainly stimulated development. New buildings to accommodate an enlarged student body were opened in 1962, the teaching resources were greatly increased and international links were strengthened. His busy Oxford life did not inhibit Marsh's activity in other fields. He was in demand as a visiting preacher, was chairman of the Congregational Union in 1962-63 and Moderator of the Free Church Council in 1970-71 but his chief outside involvement was with the World Council of Churches. Among other activities, he was secretary of the Faith and Order Commission on Intercommunion and joint author of its 1952 Report and from 1961 to 1968 a member of the World Council's central committee and chairman of its division of studies. He was also joint-chairman of the preliminary committee for the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972.

Another of his special interests was religious broadcasting. He served on the BBC's Central Religious Advisory Committee and in 1955 accepted the post of religious adviser to the new Independent Television Authority. For his work with the ITA he was appointed CBE in 1964.

Although his initial training had been philosophical, his most substantial published work was in biblical theology. His early book, *The Fulness of Time* (1952), based on his DPhil thesis, was very well received. He also wrote commentaries on Old Testament books and the *Pelican Commentary on St John's Gospel* (1968), as well as contributing to composite volumes. In retirement he produced a large book, *Jesus in his Lifetime* (1981), developed from lectures given at Duke University in 1958. He also translated two important books from the German, Stauffer's *Theology of the New Testament* (1956) and Bultmann's *The History of the Synoptic Tradition* (1963). He wrote several shorter books on pastoral themes and was secretary of the small group who produced the influential *Congregational Book of Public Worship* in 1948. The universities of Edinburgh and Nottingham made him an honorary DD.

Marsh and his wife retired to her old home in Cockermouth but they returned to Oxford in later old age. In Cumberland, the Church of England's Derwent Deanery Synod asked him to become their lay vice-chairman and he also served as chairman of the Buttermere Parish Council.

He was lame throughout life because of poliomyelitis in childhood but this did not hinder his enthusiastic fell walking. An unexpected avocation was as an Oxford college rowing coach, encouraging St Catherine's, Wadham and Balliol to victory. He is survived by his wife Gladys, two sons and a daughter.

DENISE McADAM CLARK

Denise McAdam Clark, French Resistance worker, died in Suffolk on January 9 aged 78. She was born in Paris on January 10, 1915.



THE early years of Denise McAdam Clark, born Denise Dufournier, could not have prepared her for the traumatic course her life would take. Her parents died when she was 13. Taken from the vibrant ambience of her home in Paris, she went to live with cousins in Le Mans. There she might have stayed had not her brother managed to persuade her guardian to allow her to return to Paris to study law; by 1937 she was a junior barrister at the Paris Bar.

In 1939, on a visit to England, she met her future husband, James McAdam Clark. On her second visit they planned to meet again in September; however, both Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3; they were not to meet again until 1945.

Denise Dufournier wanted to find some way of helping to undermine the occupying Germans and in 1942 she joined the *Réseau Comet*, a clandestine Resistance organisation run from London with the specific role of rescuing and repatriating stranded British and American airmen and escaped prisoners-of-war. For 15 months she led a double life, between the law courts and her part as a link in the Resistance chain.

Then on June 18, 1943, she was betrayed. She was sent to Fresnes prison, outside Paris, for six months and then condemned to death. The sentence was commuted to incarceration in Ravensbrück, the concentration camp specialising in women inmates, located in swampland 50 miles north of Berlin.

Her experiences in Ravensbrück, where she was known by her companions as "Bella", are recorded in a book she wrote immediately in the months following her liberation and published in 1946. *La Maison des Mortes* is a classic and was one of the first books to be published in France on this subject. It gained her a French Academy Award. Much to the puzzlement of reviewers, she published, almost simultaneously, a romantic novel written before the war: *St Osmane*.

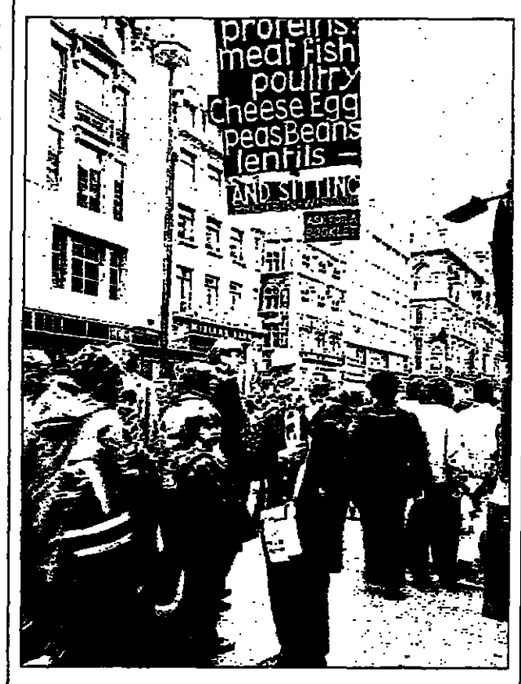
Denise Dufournier married James McAdam Clark in 1946 in Paris. Henceforth, she was to lead the life of a British diplomat's wife, following him in his career to Ecuador, Lisbon, Vienna and finally to Paris where, for seven years until his retirement in 1977, she re-established contact with family and friends — many by now in important political and cultural positions — greatly facilitating her husband's posting there as Consul-General and contributing significantly to the Paris embassy's involvement in French life.

She played the role of diplomatic wife with simplicity and dedication and, though French to the core, she loved Britain and always sought with her humour and understanding to bridge the gaps between her French and English friends. During these years and afterwards in retirement in Suffolk, she continued to write in her native language: short stories, reviews, articles, and a radio play.

More recently, disturbed by what she felt was a growing ignorance of the events she had described in *La Maison des Mortes*, and dismayed by the indifference to truth demonstrated by "revisionist" historians, she had it reissued with a new and remarkable epilogue, in 1992. Again she received many admiring reviews, some comparing this work to that of Primo Levi. For her war work she was awarded the Croix de Guerre, and was an officer of the Légion d'Honneur. She also held the Freedom Medal of the United States.

Her last year was a characteristically courageous struggle against illness. She leaves two daughters and her husband, James.

STANLEY GREEN



Stanley Green, protein philosopher of London's Oxford Street, died on December 22 aged 78. He was born on February 22, 1915.

BORNE serenely aloft above the preoccupied mass of humanity which jostles daily along Oxford Street, the banner of Stanley Green urging protein wisdom was a clarion call from a world at a delightfully dotty tangent to our own. A gentle man with a wry smile on his face, Green was at war — if such a word befits such a mild personality — with over-indulgence in what he termed "Eight Passion Proteins". To these he ascribed many of life's ills, but predominantly what he saw as the miseries arising from sexual excess. Not that the word sex ever passed his lips or appeared in his literature; he always referred to it by one or other of the quaint euphemisms he had at his disposal.

"Less lust from less protein" went his message. Meat, fish, poultry, cheese, eggs, peas, beans and lentils were the items on the list of those nutrients to be taken "with care". Many a young couple, canoodling their way along London's main shopping thoroughfare, absorbed in each other and their latest domestic purchase, might be stopped with the mild reproof: "not too much married love, now", administered with a regretful shake of the head that a high protein diet should have such direful consequences as the desire to embrace.

A bachelor, Green had given up a Civil Service career in 1968 to devote himself to propagating his dietary theories. Cycling in to the West End every day from his council flat in Northolt, he would assemble his famous placard and begin his admonitory perambulation through the seething crowds. There, impervious alike to the malice of London's winters or the fickleness of its summers, he, his cap and his wire-rimmed spectacles became a familiar sight.

For a few pence he would dispense from a satchel at his waist his hand-printed booklet on the regulation of the offending Eight Passion Proteins. (Aloft, meanwhile, the banner warned, in a delightful *non sequitur*, against a ninth vice — sitting.) Moderation in these matters, he claimed, led to less passion and less unhappiness.

There was nothing vegetarian, much less vegan, about Green's own dietary procedures. His peripatetic instruction methods demanded decent sustenance and he always began his day with a breakfast of oatmeal porridge, raw eggs and chopped dates, after which he drank an infusion of root vegetables. Barley water and home-made bread fortified him throughout his long day.

Green had made himself an integral item on the list of London's landmarks, and he and his unfashionable gospel of moderation will be missed even by those who had no intention of heeding them. However, he will live on in his way, since the Museum of London is to acquire his banner, satchel, items of his literature and other protein wisdom artefacts as part of its permanent collection of the sights of latter 20th-century London.

Valentine's Day

Send someone your personal message on February 14th

AND win a romantic weekend for 2 in Paris courtesy of P&O European Ferries HOLIDAYS

The 4 messages considered most romantic by our judges will win a delightful weekend for 2 in Paris. The prize consists of a return ferry crossing, Dover-Calais for a car and 2 passengers, one nights accommodation, bed & breakfast in one of P&O European Ferries Holidays top hotels. (Normal Times Newspapers rules will apply). The prize must be taken by 30th April 1994 subject to availability.

Examples:

D.D.L. It is clear to me now... it always will be! Love you lots - STEFFI.

Minimum 3 lines. £17.63 inc VAT

Write your message in the spaces below (one word per box) minimum 3 lines. Extra lines £5.88 each.

Minimum 3x1 £65 inc VAT

As a token of your love we have an exclusive arrangement with Hay Hampers, who for an additional £5.75 inc VAT, will send the one you love a 250 gram gift wrapped box of Ducd'O Belgian Praline Chocolates as a gift from you with a note to look in The Times on Monday February 14th.

Please tick box if you would like to send a gift. ☐

Recipients Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

I enclose cheque/PO for _____ made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd.

Please debit my credit card for _____ Card No.: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date: _____ Signature: _____

Surname: _____ Initial: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Send coupon with your remittance to:
Valentine Messages, The Times, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia St, London E1 9BL
or Fax: 071-782 7827. Credit Card Bookings Tel: 071-481 4000.
All messages with gift must be received no later than Wednesday 9th February 1994.
We reserve the right to omit an advertisement at our discretion.

THE TIMES

TWO MINUTES SILENCE

THE WORLD AT THE KING'S GRAVESIDE

REVERENT, PROUD REMEMBRANCE

The Two Minutes Silence brought the whole world to the King's graveside. Long after the procession had passed from sight the crowds lingered for this final act of fellowship and reverence. In London it was half-past 1, but at morning, noon, and night the Empire, and a sympathetic world without, paused in its work or play for a last sacrament of silent, proud remembrance.

At Piccadilly Circus the street was lined anew, as if a *cortège* were yet to pass. The steps of the fountain were filled; and a full minute before the maroon sounded traffic ceased, hats were removed, and a hush fell upon the multitude. It was an unusual crowd to see at the centre of London—so many foreign faces, so many more (it seemed) men and women from our own countryside, and from every corner of the land.

As the sun gleamed out a maroon sounded at the half-hour. A pigeon took wing, and then the only sounds were the splashing of the fountain, the flapping of the flags on the roofs, and the distant fretful cry of a tiny child—the solitary living voice that penetrated the silence for the dead. As thus we followed the procession in thought the Silence came as a climax in which each could for a brief space renew the chosen memories of him who in his last years happily came ever closer to us: who was so gracious a presence at our Christmas feasts, heard but unseen.

He had called us his "very dear people," and marvelled, in his modest heart, that such outbursts of something more than loyalty should have greeted his Jubilee progress through the streets. Now he had made his last journey in our midst, and the strongest sense, in our sorrow, was still that of one who, while in kingly state he "kept a court of honour in his breast," had ever a heart attuned to the cares and joys of plain folk. With how many phrases of homely good will he had bound us to him; by no thraldom of asserted dominion he reigned, but by the pervading sense of his oneness with us, by a native spirit of affection in him that overleaped barriers of convention and was as cordial as the handclasp of our nearest kin.

As we stood in silence we recalled the seemly pomp of sepulture upon which we had been looking. That must ever remain in memory, but the ear has richer memories still, of the simple fervour of the voice we have come to know so well. In the hush it came back in mind, more accurately, in every intonation, than many voices much oftener heard. Its fervour intensified, for the least imaginative, the loneliness of one called to such an office as his. There returned the phrase that touched us as with a sword when, but a month before, he had spoken to us of the sense of responsibility that lay upon "the man . . . may God help him," in whom our trust of kingship lay.

Here in the centre of his Empire, as the silence wrapped us, stood a little group of children with their black armlets, living through two minutes that will deepen in meaning with the years; and the mind leaped with a fresh sense of joy from the last Royal broadcast to the first, when the King and Queen spoke to the boys and girls on Empire Day, and a new wonder was added to childhood's store as that kindly voice said: "Children, the King is speaking to you." Now they had come to say good-bye to their Royal friend, whose fatherly voice was stilled . . .

ON THIS DAY

January 29 1936

George V (1865-1936), who reigned from 1910, died at Sandringham on January 20 and, following his lying-in-state at Westminster Hall, was buried at Windsor.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 29 1994

NEWS

Murder halts British aid convoys

■ The Government suspended official aid convoys throughout the former Yugoslavia after a hijacked British driver, a Gulf War veteran, was deliberately shot dead in Bosnia. His two companions were wounded as they fled across an icy river.

The dead man, Paul Goodall, 35, was shot twice in the head after the unidentified gunmen seized the men's Land-Rover in Zenica, a Muslim-controlled area **Pages 1, 3, 15**

Major is 'betting on Britain'

■ John Major tried to rescue his beleaguered back-to-basics policy by focusing on the economy and launching a new slogan, "I'm betting on Britain". In attempting to move the debate away from taxation and morality and switch it to the economy, the Prime Minister set out his priorities for the year and calling for the "re-skilling of Britain" **Pages 1, 2**

Lamont attack

Norman Lamont has delivered another embarrassing blow to John Major. He is quoted in an interview this morning as describing the prime minister as weak and hopeless **Page 1**

Boredom cure

A bogus traffic policeman spent weekends stopping motorists on the M25 because he was bored, a court was told **Page 1**

Adams offer

Gerry Adams was considering an offer to suspend the 20-year ban on him entering the US, on condition that he renounces violence **Page 2**

Life sentence

Colin Hatch, who sexually assaulted and murdered a boy while on parole was jailed for life **Page 3**

Not guilty

A woman who stabbed to death a shopping centre Santa Claus whom she accused of raping her four-year-old daughter was cleared of murder **Page 4**

Auditor accused

Westminster's district auditor was accused of acting like a revolutionary tribunal, after the suicide of a former councillor **Page 5**

Bush opens up

George Bush kept his promise of silence during President Clinton's first year. Now he has opened fire on the "stop-and-start failures" of his successor's foreign policy **Page 12**

Japanese deal

Japan's political leaders ended a week of turmoil by reaching a compromise on a package of political reforms **Page 11**

England football banks on ambition

■ Even as a player, Terry Venables, who took over the England football team, always had aspirations beyond kicking footballs. He was the first player to become a limited company. As a manager he had ambitions beyond running the team and became chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur: from pitch to board, from half-time lemon to Havana cigar **Pages 1, 3**



The 9,000-ton Indian bulk carrier *Vishva Parag* stranded on the mud of Swansea Bay after a pilot steered the vessel to safety when it was holed below the waterline by shifting cargo

OPINION

Faith in the City

The Templeman Commission's report will probably have a greater impact on the number of churches in the City of London than any event since the Great Fire. If its recommendations are accepted, 24 of the 36 churches in the City may be closed or turned to secular use **Page 17**

Minimal punishment

Sentencing is entirely a matter for dispute between offenders and the courts. Mr Howard may put his decision in the Bulger case to good use by making it a focal point for wider debate **Page 17**

Fire next door

Algeria's crisis is also Europe's problem ... and a conciliatory role for the EU is vital **Page 17**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Why is it that the French can build these monuments and Britain cannot? The answer is leadership. The Grand Louvre was personally supervised by President Mitterrand. He brooked no opposition. It is just one of his *grands travaux* that include library, opera house and science park. In Britain only Docklands tunnels and Malaysian dams command such prime ministerial *droit de seigneur* **Page 16**

BEN MACINTYRE

Perhaps men do not report sexual harassment, or are more often flattered than offended by the attentions of a female boss but cases of women sexually harassing men at work are not just rare, they are freaks. This is not a "social problem" but a novelty **Page 16**

[illegible]

Donald Milner, BBC correspondent; the Rev Professor John Marsh, Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 1953-70; Denise McAdam Clark, French Resistance worker; Stanley Green, Oxford Street's protein philosopher **Page 19**

How should religion be taught in schools? **Page 17**

Although the British Government has urged denial of a visa, it has conceded that it held secret talks with Sinn Fein, so it is hard to see why Americans should be more purist — *The New York Times*

Don't be surprised if Republicans make it an offense to steal issues — *The Washington Post*

BUSINESS



Property blow: David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive, revealed a £365 million fall in the properties of the store group .. **Page 21**

America: The US economy ended 1993 with the strongest rate of expansion in six years. It grew by an annualised 5.9 per cent in the fourth quarter, buoyed by an unusually strong Christmas shopping season **Page 21**

Television: The debacle surrounding airtime sales at Yorkshire-Tyne Tees has slashed the group's share of advertising revenue and has cost a final dividend **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 20.1 points to close at 3447.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 82.2 to 82.4 after a rise from $1.4928 to $1.5038 but a fall from DM2.6037 to DM2.5993 ... **Page 24**



Football: Liverpool's manager, Graeme Souness, resigned after three controversial years in charge of the club, bowing to increased pressure and criticism from the club's supporters **Page 40**

Tennis: Americans Pete Sampras and Todd Martin touched perfection on the way to the final of the Australian Open in Melbourne. In the semi-finals, Sampras defeated Jim Courier, the defending champion, and Martin beat Stefan Edberg **Page 36**

Golf: Ernie Els widened his lead to six strokes after a second-round 69 in the Dubai Desert Classic. The South African is 14 under par. Sam Torrance, Paul Broadhurst and Gary Evans are second ... **Page 34**

VISION



Laughing time: Are the American top sitcoms better than the British? **Page 3**

Wives United: Football families hit back at clubs **Page 5**

Opera box: Channel 4's season of operas for television begins amusingly, if not tunefully **Page 6**

WEEKEND

Expert buyers: Professionals in the property market tell how they have profited from their own house moves **Page 1**

Travel: The scenery, wildlife and home comforts of Canada's northwest and Alaska **Pages 2, 3**

Chilli Super Bowl: It's as American as apple pie: the annual celebration with 'five alarm' and cases of Bud of the National Football League finals **Page 4**

Royal help: Imaginative young designers show their wears ... **Page 8**



Haunting: *The Stryker* is the new National Theatre production by Caryl Churchill. In it, she has "ventured into the darker parts of our collective unconscious in hope of finding fresh metaphors for that mad, muddled place, England" . **Page 16**

Young Russian maestro: Two years ago, Yakov Kreizberg created a sensation at Glyndebourne with his conducting of Janacek's *Jenufa*. Now he is poised to make his London opera debut, conducting *Der Rosenkavalier* at English National Opera **Page 16**

A to Z in 3D: A London exhibition shows the results of commissioning 35 sculptors who were each given a letter of the alphabet or symbol for inspiration **Page 16**

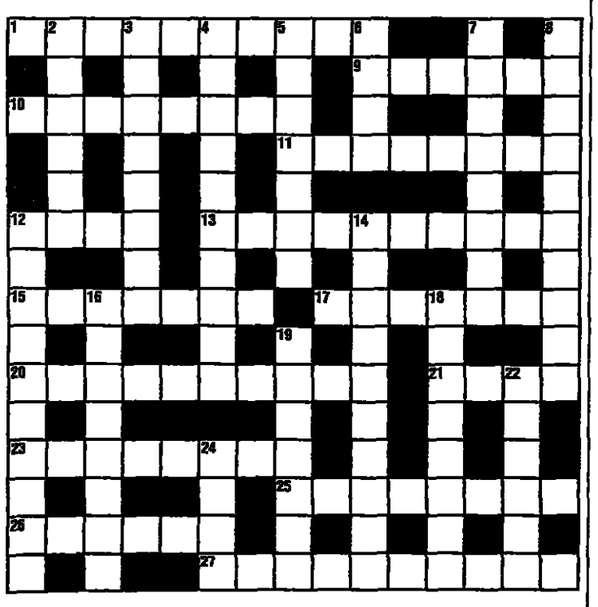
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,452

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationery rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

.....



ACROSS

1 Daily woman on way in to have a flutter (10).
9 French physicist was a politician before (6).
10 Taken round the room and grilled (8).
11 Ugly expressions of serious champions (8).
12 A Name working incognito briefly (4).
13 Rather stupid, to hang around inside for a lift (4,6).
15 Hardy creditor comes round to see working man (7).
17 Daughter, not a virgin, had to return such a ring (7).
20 Joker put on games clothes for erotic entertainment (10).
21 Warm and comfortable, but function unknown (4).
23 Fork out here perhaps so the old can get treatment (8).
25 Corresponding with workplace via the post office (8).
26 Church official is right on the brink (6).
27 Passed on one calling 'double' (4,6).

DOWN

2 Think of an explanation (6).
3 After the Fall, man is past his prime (8).
4 Inferior alternative makes a decent boss distraught (6-4).
5 Most men are taken by this stage in Beckett's work (3-4).
6 Starts to train Arsenal team to make progress along the ground (4).
7 Romeo's friend found out crime was bad (8).
8 Deliberately deprived me for certain of son (10).
12 Prosecuting in a case (10).
14 Make Whip repeat changes to published policy (5,5).
16 Pork in dripping, and port (8).
18 Said to make fun of an evil that's afoot (8).
19 The first woman to have a troublesome chest ... (7).
22 ... cut down chesty trouble here (6).
24 Animals obeyed call (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19.446

G	A	L	L	I	D		P	R	E	C	L	U	D	E	S
O		E		A		V		E		R		P			
C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E		G	E	E	S	E	
K		B		A		S		N		A		S		N	
A	N	O	X	I	C		T	H	I	C	K	S	E	T	
I		L		S		A		Y		C					
G	R	A	V	E	S	T	O	N	E		T	O	R	C	
N		E		D		E		D		L		A		L	
E	A	R	N		B	L	U	E	B	O	T	T	L	E	
		O		B		L		D		L				V	
C	O	S	M	E	T	I	C		B	L	I	T	H	E	
A		P		H		F		A	I	R		R			
L	E	A	S	E		O	E	N	O	P	H	I	L	E	
I		C		L		R		O		O		L		S	
F	I	E	L	D	S	M	E	N		P	I	L	O	T	

Solution to Puzzle No 19.451

W	R	I	T	H	E		M	A	N	D	A	R	I	N
	E		R		X		A		R		E		O	
S	P	R	I	N	T	E	R		G	Y	P	S	U	M
	O		A		E		L		S		E		I	
O	R	D	N	A	N	C	E		S	H	A	M	A	N
	T		G		S		N		O		B		E	
	E		L	O	I	T	E	R	E	D		L	E	
F	R	E	E		O		N		S	E	T	S		
I		T		I	N	D	I	G	E	N	T		R	
R	C		N		E		R		U		E			
C	R	E	C	H	E		T	U	G	O	F	W	A	R
O		T		A		R		E		S				
N	E	E	D	L	E		I	N	T	R	I	G	U	E
E		R		E		C		I		N		R		
S	L	A	P	D	A	S	H		C	Y	G	N	E	T

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Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
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Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
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North-east England	743
Scotland	744
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.44 am — Sun sets: 4.44pm
Moon sets: 8.07 am — Moon rises: 7.47 pm

Last quarter February 2

London 4.44 pm to 7.44 am
Bristol 4.54 pm to 7.53 am
Edinburgh 4.38 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.45 pm to 8.00 am
Penzance 5.11 pm to 8.01 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.42 am — Sun sets: 4.46pm
Moon sets: 8.31 am — Moon rises: 9.07 pm

Last quarter February 2

London 4.46 pm to 7.42 am
Bristol 4.56 pm to 7.52 am
Edinburgh 4.41 pm to 8.12 am
Manchester 4.47 pm to 7.58 am
Penzance 5.12 pm to 7.59 am

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A Simpson, Great Glen, Leics; Mrs M Camilleri, Maidenhead; P L Wilenski, Sheffield; D Whittle, Salisbury; M A Evans, North Chailey, Sussex.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Some sleet and snow in E at first, turning to rain. England and Wales will be cloudy with some drizzle over hills and on S and W coasts. N and E Scotland will also have some snow but by afternoon most of Scotland and N Ireland will be drier. Rain will affect the N and W in evening. Generally mild.

☐ **London, E Anglia, E England, N E England:** Sleet or snow at first, drier with bright spells later, wind mainly W. Cold at first then mild. Max 9C (48F).

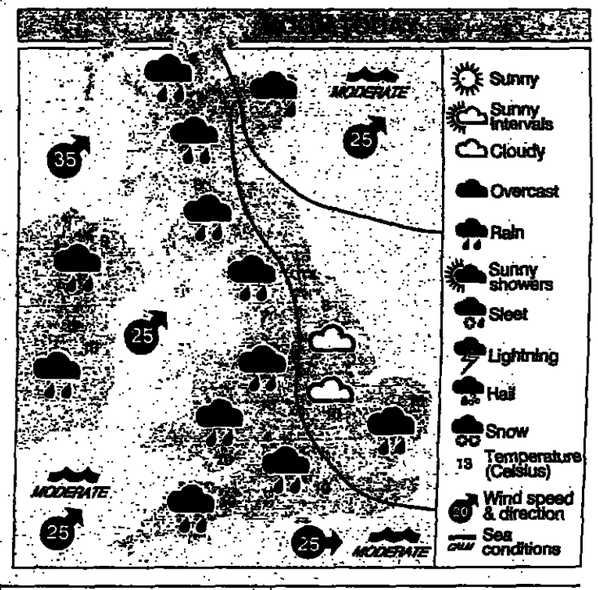
☐ **S E England, Central S England, Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** Mostly cloudy with drizzle on hills and coasts, wind W. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N:** Some rain at first then mostly dry with bright spells, wind W, moderate. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Sleet or snow at first. Drier for a time, then rain in the north by evening. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** Cloudy with some drizzle, rain in evening. Mild. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** Fresher, brighter but showery weather will spread from N tomorrow.



ABROAD TODAY AND TOMORROW

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sf=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain; h=hail; du=dust; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.6	0.05	5	41	sn	Liverpool	0.6	0.38	8	46	r
Anglesey	1.1	0.13	9	48	sh	London	0.4	0.02	12	54	c
Aspatria	0.6	0.31	6	43	sl	Lowestoft	3.0	-	11	52	c
Aviemore	-	1.07	2	36	sn	Manchester	0.7	0.30	9	48	r
Belfast	1.1	0.22	4	39	sl	Margate	X	-	12	54	c
Birmingham	0.7	0.08	11	52	sh	Minehead	X	0.02	12	54	sh
Bognor R	0.7	0.01	11	52	c	Morecambe	1.3	0.52	7	45	r
Bournem'th	1.6	-	11	52	c	Newcastle	3.2	0.20	7	45	sh
Bristol	0.9	0.06	10	50	sh	Newquay	X	-	-	-	-
Buxton	0.3	0.16	7	45	r	Norwich	2.7	0.02	11	52	sh
Cardiff	X	-	-	-	-	Nottingham	1.7	0.34	9	48	sh
Clacton	1.7	-	11	52	c	Penzance	0.2	0.02	11	52	g
Cleethorpes	X	-	-	-	-	Plymouth	0.1	0.07	11	52	g
Colwyn Bay	1.0	0.50	9	48	r	Poole	2.4	-	13	55	c
Cromer	2.9	-	11	52	b	Ross-o-wye	0.9	0.04	11	52	g
Dunbar	X	-	-	-	-	Ryde	X	-	-	-	-
Eastbourne	1.0	-	11	52	c	Sandown	2.0	0.01	11	52	g
Edinburgh	1.8	0.35	6	43	sn	Saunton Snd	0.3	0.18	10	50	g
Eskdalemuir	0.5	0.54	4	39	sn	Scilly Isles	0.3	-	10	50	g
Exmouth	2.1	0.01	12	54	g	Shanklin	0.8	0.02	11	52	g
Falmouth	X	0.03	11	52	sh	Skegness	4.5	0.04	10	50	sh
Folkestone	0.1	-	11	52	c	Southend	1.0	-	11	52	c
Glasgow	2.0	0.47	6	43	sh	Southport	0.5	0.35	5	41	r
Guernsey	-	0.03	12	54	c	Southsea	1.3	-	11	52	c
Hastings	-	-	10	50	du	Stornoway	-	0.25	5	41	h
Hayling I.	X	-	-	-	-	Swanage	2.3	-	11	52	c
Heme Bay	1.4	-	12	54	c	Teignmouth	0.7	-	12	54	c
Hove	0.4	0.01	10	50	c	Tenby	-	0.25	11	52	r
Hunstanton	2.7	0.02	9	48	sh	Tiree	0.3	0.20	8	43	h
Isle of Man	X	-	-	-	-	Torquay	0.3	0.03	11	52	d
Jersey	-	0.07	11	52	d	Tynemouth	4.1	0.05	7	45	sh
Kinloss	1.3	0.45	4	39	sl	Ventnor	0.3	0.01	11	52	g
Leeds	1.0	0.29	8	46	f	West-s-mere	-	0.16	8	46	g
Lerwick	0.2	0.50	4	39	h	Weymouth	2.9	-	11	52	g
Leuchars	4.1	0.14	5	41	sl	Wick	0.8	0.17	4	39	h
Littlehampton	0.7	0.01	11	52	c						

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

Alaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	14	57	s	Malaga	17	63	s
Akrotiri	16	61	c	Dublin	4	39	s	Malta	15	59	s
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Melb'rne	18	64	s
Algiers	18	64	s	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	21	70	s
Amst'dam	5	41	h	Florence	3	37	f	Miami	26	79	c
Athens	12	54	s	Frankfurt	6	43	f	Milan	13	55	f
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	16	61	f	Montreal	-23	-9	f
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	5	41	f	Moscow	0	32	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Gibraltar	15	59	s	Munich	2	36	sn
Barcelona	14	57	s	Helsinki	-3	27	c	Nairobi	28	84	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	22	72	s	Naples	11	52	d
Belgrade	3	37	f	Innsbruck	2	36	sn	N Delhi	23	73	s
Berlin	5	41	c	Istanbul	9	48	f	N York	-8	18	c
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	27	81	f	Nice	19	66	s
Biarritz	11	52	c	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	-3	27	f
Bordeaux	12	54	s	Karachi	27	81	s	Paris	8	46	f
Brussels	8	43	f	L Palmas	19	66	s	Peking	3	37	s
Budapst	5	41	f	Le Touet	-	-	-	Perth	33	91	s
B Aires	28	82	s	Lisbon	13	55	s	Prague	3	37	h
Cairo	21	70	f	Locarno	10	50	f	Reykjavik	-6	21	c
Cape Tn	26	79	s	L Angels	14	57	s	Rhodes	13	55	r
Chicago	-1	30	r	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rio de J	31	88	f
Ch'church	16	61	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	18	64	s
Cologne	5	41	r	Madrid	11	52	s	Rome	14	57	f
Cphagn	2	36	r	Majorca	14	57	s	Salzburg	4	39	sn

S F'isco	11	52	s
Santiago	27	81	s
S Paulo	21	70	d
Seoul	2	36	s
Sing'por	28	84	f
St'kholm	-6	21	f
Strasb'rg	7	45	f
Sydney	25	77	c
Tangier	17	63	s
Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Tenerife	19	66	s
Tokyo	3	37	sl
Toronto	-10	14	c
Tunis	17	63	c
Valencia	19	66	s
Vancver	7	45	c
Venice	8	46	f
Vienna	6	43	f
Warsaw	5	41	f
Wash'ton	-6	21	sn
Wel'ngton	16	61	s
Zurich	4	39	h

X = not available

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 2C (36F); highest rainfall: Aviemore, 1.06in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 4.6hr.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.50	7.40	3.14	7.56	Liverpool	12.09	9.51	12.21	9.79
Aberdeen	2.20	4.34	2.27	4.55	Lowestoft	10.39	2.42	10.42	2.69
Avonmouth	8.19	13.82	8.44	13.68	Margate	12.53	4.88	1.21	4.83
Belfast	—	—	12.05	3.65	Milford Haven	7.18	7.33	7.42	7.19
Cardiff	8.04	12.75	8.29	12.63	Newquay	6.08	7.30	6.32	7.20
Devonport	6.57	5.80	7.23	5.40	Oban	8.44	4.10	7.04	4.00
Dover	—	—	12.04	6.68	Penzance	5.56	5.70	6.24	5.60
Falmouth	6.27	5.40	6.53	5.20	Portland	7.55	2.20	8.22	2.00
Glasgow	2.02	4.50	2.00	5.20	Portsmouth	12.12	4.80	12.23	4.80
Harwich	12.43	3.94	1.07	4.02	Shoreham	—	—	12.12	6.64
Holyhead	11.20	5.89	11.44	5.66	Southampton	11.57	4.60	—	—
Hull	7.24	7.56	7.32	7.86	Swansea	7.24	9.83	7.45	9.67
Ilfracombe	7.05	9.82	7.28	9.52	Tees	4.45	5.40	4.55	5.64
King's Lynn	7.30	6.70	7.38	7.10	Wilton-on-Nze	12.33	4.18	12.58	4.27
Leith	3.36	5.63	3.51	5.75					

Tourist rates are on page 24

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PROFILE 23

Sir Malcolm Field turns over new page at W H Smith



MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Our City Editor chronicles battle for the Indy



SPORT 34-40

Tout and Paul driving for gold at Lillehammer

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
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THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 29 1994

US economy grows at strongest rate for six years

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

THE AMERICAN economy ended 1993 with the strongest rate of expansion in six years.

The Commerce Department yesterday released provisional data showing that the economy grew by an annualised 5.9 per cent in the fourth quarter, buoyed by unusually strong Christmas shopping and deferred economic activity after the Midwest flooding last summer. For the year as a whole, the economy expanded 2.9 per cent, compared with 2.6 per cent in 1992.

Strong growth had been expected, but the figures were still at the high end of market forecasts. On Wall Street, stock and bond markets opened strongly yesterday. The Dow Jones rose 20 points to a record high of 3,947, but by midday fell back to 3,943.18, up 16.88. Bonds also improved sharply. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was up by ¾ of a percentage point in the morning, with the yield down from 6.26 per cent on Thursday to 6.20 per cent.)

Clinton Administration officials were quick off the mark to claim credit for the cyclical upswing. Mark Gearan, the White House communications director, claimed that "the choices made for the economic plan last year resulted in lower interest rates and this beginning sign of an economic recovery".

Lloyd Bentsen, the Treasury Secretary, said: "First quarter: 0.8 per cent. Second quarter: 1.9 per cent. Third quarter: 2.9 per cent. Fourth quarter: 5.9 per cent. You can't get much more solid and steady growth than that."

For President Clinton, the figures are the second piece of encouraging economic news this week, after the forecast by the independent Congressional Budget Office that the federal budget deficit would fall from $223 billion in the current financial year to $172 billion in 1994-95. This represents a steeper fall than even the president's economists had expected. The forecast deficit reduction is, in part, connected to the spending cuts adopted in last year's budget and to the surge in economic activity.

Meanwhile, there are few indications — either from the rate of inflation or from the monetary aggregates — that prices are edging significantly upwards, the reason for continued optimism in bond markets, which usually react cautiously to news of strong economic growth.

However, the producer price index was up by 0.6 per cent in January, a stronger rise than in previous months, although this is not considered to be an alarming start-of-year figure, since many producers tend to raise their prices in January.

The present rate of economic expansion, however, overstates real underlying growth, as it did before in the fourth quarter of 1992, when the US economy grew by almost as much only to relapse into sluggish growth rates during the first two quarters last year.

In 1993, the fourth-quarter statistics were artificially boosted by about 0.4 of a percentage point because of statistical distortions resulting from the Midwest flooding disaster last summer. During the third quarter, the floods led to a decrease in output by 0.6 percentage points to 2.9 per cent.

In the first quarter of this year, economic growth is expected to fall back to about 3.5 per cent, while inflation will edge up slightly to more than 3 per cent, according to some forecasts, even if the Federal Reserve raises short-term interest rates, which is now widely considered inevitable.

Deficit shrinks, page 22
Markets, page 24

Sainsbury declares an end to growth

■ The new accounting policies implemented by Sainsbury will reduce profits by £405 million almost cancelling the profit made in the first half of its financial year

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE seemingly unstoppable success story of J Sainsbury, Britain's biggest supermarket group, came to an abrupt halt yesterday, marking the end of an era in food retailing.

Sainsbury warned that profits in the current year would be substantially lower than market expectations following a drop in gross margins, a decline in like-for-like sales, and a massive one-off cost relating to the write-down of property values. It also said jobs may be axed at its head office as part of a widespread cost-cutting programme.

The news hit Sainsbury's shares, which plummeted 48p to 393p. Other food retailers did not escape either, with Argyll falling 14p to 258p and Asda down 3½p to 58½p. However, Tesco, which has already delivered a trading update, recovered from an early fall to end only ½p lower at 222½p.

Analysts downgraded their full year forecasts by up to £80 million, to between £700 million and £740 million. Philip Dorgan of Goldman Sachs said: "It could not have been a worse statement. No one expected Sainsbury to be one of the casualties in the sector, but it looks like we have got to lower our expectations about the company."

Sales at the Sainsbury supermarket chain were 4.6 per cent ahead in the 16 weeks to January 15. However, like-for-like sales in existing stores actually fell 1 per cent, the first decline seen by the group after years of steady growth.

The fall came in spite of the launch of its "Essential for Essentials" campaign last October, which cut prices on 300 own-label products. The campaign has eroded gross margins by 0.4 percentage points as expected but the chain has yet to see volume rises to compensate.

David Quarmby, joint managing director, blamed the decline on a strong sales performance in 1992 following its joint promotion with British Airways. Last year's promotion had failed to deliver similar increases. He added that price inflation had also been lower than expected as a result of the intensifying price competition. However he said gross margins were now at a sustainable level, though few analysts shared his optimism.

The group said it was in the process of reviewing staffing numbers in a bid to maintain profitability. Mr Quarmby said job losses would not be "huge" and any cuts would be confined to the 3,000 head office and support staff.

Sainsbury is also taking a one-off hit of £365 million in the current year on sites bought in the "race for the space" during the 1980s which are now worth less than the group paid for them.

A further £40 million will be wiped off the bottom line by the decision to depreciate the value of its store portfolio at a rate of 2 per cent a year. This is less aggressive than the policies recently adopted by Argyll and Tesco, who are to depreciate their stores at a rate of 2.5 per cent.

Together the new accounting policies will reduce profits by £405 million, almost cancelling out the £434 million profit made in the first half.

However, the group remains committed to expanding its supermarket chain. It plans to open about 20 new outlets a year over the next three to four years, although some of these will be replacements for outdated stores. Group capital expenditure will fall from £800 million in the current year to £700 million, of which some £460 million will be spent on the core supermarket chain.

Strong sales growth was seen in the group's Savacentre and Homebase chains in Britain and Shaw's in America.

Tempus, page 23

JAMES MORGAN



Ward Thomas, YTT chairman, said yesterday that trading was now back to normal

Yorkshire TV plunges to loss of £7.9m

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE debacle surrounding airtime sales at Yorkshire-Tyne Tees has slashed the group's share of ITV advertising revenue and cost shareholders a final dividend as the franchise holder plunged into heavy losses.

Ward Thomas, Yorkshire's chairman who took over from Clive Leach last November, estimated the group's share of network revenue has fallen from about 11.5 per cent to less than 10 per cent. He said advertisers lost confidence in the station after the former sales team sold more airtime than it had and offered discounts to pull revenue forward in the 1992/93 financial year.

This overtrading, which came to light when LWT's Laser sales operation took over Yorkshire's advertising sales last October, created "deal debt". Yorkshire has been forced to make a provision of £20.2 million to eliminate the problem, including £17.2 million to cover invoices which had to be transferred from 1992/93 into the 1993/94 financial year. Mr Thomas said trading was now back to normal, but warned that the difficulties had spilled over into the first quarter of the current year.

Pre-tax losses for the year to September 30 were £7.9 million (£19.7 million profit). The figure was further depressed by exceptional losses of £8.9 million relating to redundancy costs and the closure of its sales operations. The passed final dividend leaves a total of 3.3p (12p).

Mr Thomas said this was partly a result of strict cost controls. Staff numbers have been cut by 432 and overall operating costs have fallen to £31.4 million (£35.1 million).

He insisted the group's ownership of Tyne-Tees had not left it on the side-lines of the recent flurry of mergers prompted by the Government's decision to allow one company to hold two licences. Mr Thomas said the next stage of legislation, which may allow cross-media ownership, would be more significant. "If you are going to be the blushing bride at the altar steps, then that is the time to do it." In the interim he did not rule out forming other alliances, such as programme deals. YTT's share price rose 1p to 234p at yesterday's close.

British Airways and Virgin settle maintenance dispute

BY GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

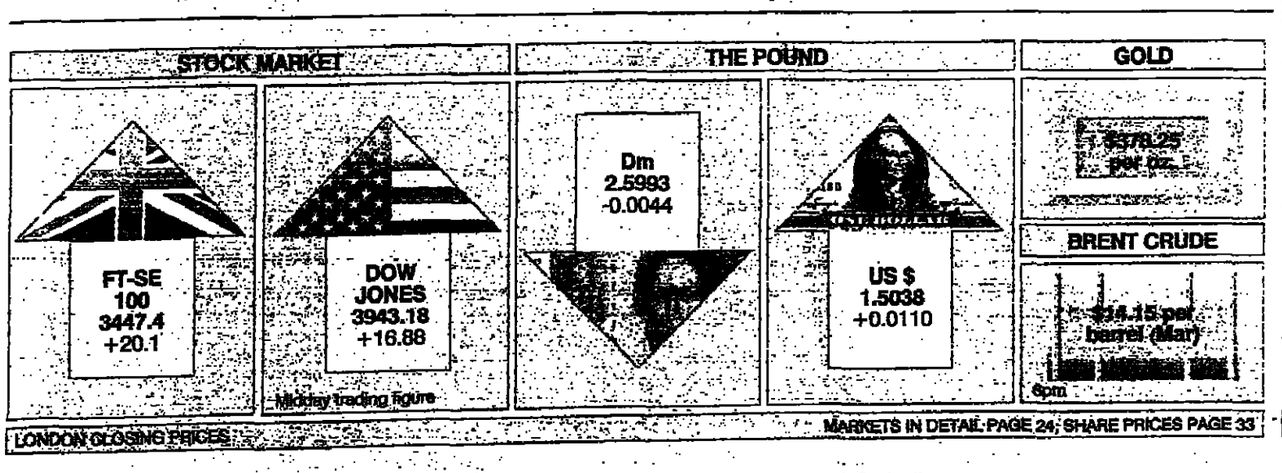
VIRGIN Atlantic yesterday won a battle over the maintenance of its aircraft by British Airways in 1988. Virgin said that BA has agreed to pay Richard Branson's airline £2.65 million in compensation plus Virgin's and BA's costs. The case had been due to go to arbitration this May.

The action has become separated from the continuing, so-called, "dirty tricks" row between the two. The engineering dispute was one of the claims on which BA offered to pay £9 million to Virgin last March, although the settlement later fell apart over terms and conditions.

Robert Ayling, BA managing director, said: "The payment made by BA was modest in relation to the nearly £6 million demanded by Virgin during discussions last year. Virgin's acceptance of the £2.6 million puts the matter into its proper perspective."

Mr Branson said: "This is the second occasion when BA has denied any liability and refused to settle a valid claim for damages and then capitulated at the eleventh hour. Perhaps they should learn from this and in future settle such claims promptly before they incur hundreds of thousands of pounds of legal costs, particularly given that when this claim arose BA were dealing with what was then a fledgling British airline."

Virgin also announced that the preliminary hearing in its $300 million anti-trust complaint lawsuit in America against BA over the dirty tricks affair will be heard in the Southern District Court of New York on March 25. The court will decide if BA has a case to answer.



BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

WEEKEND MONEY

TAX PLAN

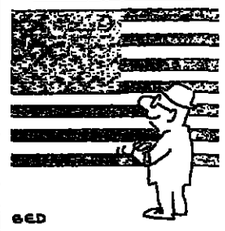


With tax bills going up, the time has come for a hard look at family assets and outgoings. We have ways to soften the big squeeze
Page 25

TRAVEL PLAN

Families who travel abroad more than once a year can save money with annual insurance cover
Page 27

OVER THERE



Experts offer advice to UK investors wanting to include American shares in their portfolios
Page 29

OVER HERE

An annual report on equities, gilts and cash finds that equities still have the long-term edge
Page 28

FOR A TASTE OF HOW THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL PRIVATE INVESTORS ARE TREATED

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The battle for The Independent

It is alleged, on occasions, that journalists are obsessed with the newspaper industry: witness this week's epic coverage of the battle, of non-epic proportions, for control of Newspaper Publishing, proprietor of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*. Such allegations are, of course, entirely without foundation. I, for my part, touch on the Fourth Estate merely out of a sense of duty because I appreciate that it is *you*, the reader, who is obsessed with newspaper battles. After all, other enterprises just don't change hands in quite the same way.

Down at City Road, Ian Hay Davison, chairman of Newspaper Publishing and a former chief executive of Lloyd's of London, has been drumming his fingers for some time; since December 21 to be precise. That was when Andreas Whittam Smith, founder editor of *The Independent*, let it be known that he, along with founder directors Adrian O'Neill and Matthew Symonds, intended to join forces with the company's major European shareholders, La Repubblica and El Pais, and mount a consortium takeover bid for the company. The Italian and Spanish shareholders hold a 37.3 per cent stake, while the Whittam Smith trio speak for 10 per cent.

City institutions, including the likes of Standard Life, Foreign & Colonial and Scottish Amicable, control the remaining equity — much of which was originally purchased at £1 per share. Having acquired tranches of stock at £5 and £2.50p per share, the Europeans' average buying price is around £4 per share — significantly above the "matched bargain" market quote of £1.85p.

Davison, presiding over a split board, formed a Board Committee, excluding the Whittam Smith/European cabal, which embraces chief executive Patrick Morrissey, a former managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers, and former Midland Bank chief Sir Kit McMahon, otherwise known, to readers of *The Irish Times*, as "Sir Kit Mahoney." Whittam Smith murmured in Davison's ear that proposals would be forthcoming by January 4 but, alas, journalists and deadlines are a dangerous mix. That said, Whittam Smith, seeking an injection of anything between £10 million and £25 million, had cast his net wide. Tentative feelers were put out to Michael Green at Carlton Communications, currently absorbing Central TV, while Lord Hollick, managing director of MAI, is understood to have shown interest. But the European perspective, which carried a 37.3 per cent clout, was that the muscle of a "Fleet Street House" was required: witness Whittam Smith's flirtations with Conrad Black's *Telegraph* group, Mirror Group Newspapers, Associated Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Mail* and United Newspapers, the *Daily Express* combine.



MELVYN MARCKUS

Whittam Smith talked long and hard with Canadian magnate Black but the threat of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference loomed large and MGN, albeit not without potential MMC problems, emerged as the favoured partner. Early last week — three weeks after the January 4 deadline — Davison was officially informed of the amalgam which, should its full scale bid for Newspaper Publishing prove successful, would leave the Europeans in control with a 51 per cent stake. MGN would hold 39 per cent, leaving the Whittam Smith trio with an ongoing 10 per cent. No formal offer was tabled but the indicated price was £2 per share, valuing Newspaper Publishing at some £40 million. Davison argues that Newspaper Publishing is worth a minimum £60 million — based on 75 per cent of annual revenues — while the consortium insists that this will be squared by a cash injection of £20 million.

Come Thursday and Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Dublin-based Independent Newspapers enterprise, duly unveiled a £32 million package in the shape of a £21 million refinancing via convertible loan stock in Newspaper Publishing which, following full conversion on the basis of £3 of stock per share, would give the Irish publisher a 24.9 per cent interest. This is linked to an £11 million tender for 20 per cent of the equity at £2.50p per share, the message being that Independent Newspapers' stake would be limited to 24.9 per cent for "the forseeable future."

Enter Lord Stevens, chairman of United Newspapers, which, under O'Reilly's proposals, will effectively absorb Newspaper Publishing's printing, distribution and administration operations. Similarly, Newspaper Publishing's 350 editorial staff will be housed in Ludgate House, adjacent to Blackfriars Bridge: a distinctly more inviting prospect than the dread Canary Wharf, otherwise perceived as the promised land.

As O'Reilly, masterminding operations from Lyford Cay, in the Bahamas (a better place to bid from), finally struck ahead of yesterday's gathering of Newspaper Publishing's Board Committee, the MGN consortium, advised by Schroders and Hambros, tweaked its terms upwards to around £2.40p/£2.70p. Such terms, however, have still not been put forward officially: note Newspaper Publishing's statement yesterday that the MGN syndicate is "considering making an offer".

Just to stir the pot, the Telegraph group has reminded Davison that it is "interested" as, for that matter, is Associated Newspapers. Neither, however, have produced serious proposals, not least because MGN is now wearing their clothes. All of which leaves the MGN consortium and O'Reilly's camp, represented by Charterhouse Bank, to talk turkey with Warburgs which, on behalf of Newspaper Publishing, is presiding over this potential auction. Then again, the two contenders just might decide to talk to each other. The Europeans are not necessarily averse to O'Reilly holding a stake — as long as it comes out of the 49 per cent MGN/Whittam Smith block.

Don't expect an early solution. This saga will run and run.

Britain cuts trade deficit with non-EC countries

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

■ Outside Europe, Britain is raising exports more quickly than imports. But the rise in imports remains strong enough to suggest continuing consumer recovery

THE United Kingdom's trade deficit with countries outside the European Community shrank by £98 million to £675 million in December, according to provisional estimates published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

Although the CSO said the trend in visible trade has shown little change in recent months, Richard Needham, the trade minister, pointed to a £1.33 billion fall in the deficit between the fourth quarters of 1992 and 1993, to £1.83 billion, as evidence that the UK's trade position was improving.

That view found support in the City. Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, the broker, said the trend was "clearly favourable". He believes exporters are benefiting from a more competitive exchange rate and a recovery in demand outside the EC.

For the Opposition, however, Derek Fatchett, the shadow industry minister, said the figures "show the difficulties Britain now has in paying its way in the world. It is the price we are now paying for the Government's neglect of manufacturing industry."

The figures, which are derived from customs returns, cover only about a third of the UK's overseas trade. The EC now accounts for the bulk of UK imports and exports, but figures for EC trade compiled under the Intrastat system will not be available until later.

Non-EC trade showed a sharp and surprising fall in November, but the much stronger December figures suggest that export volumes in the final quarter of 1993 were 4 per cent up on the previous three months. Overall, the export volume improvement during the final quarter, year on year, was 12 per cent.

Import volumes during December rose 2.6 per cent, pushing import volumes in the final quarter to a level 10 per cent higher than in the final three months of 1992. The figures indicate that outside the EC, at least, the UK is closing the visible trade shortfall by increasing exports more quickly than imports. But the rise in imports is strong enough to suggest a continuing consumer recovery.

The UK deficit contrasts with the trade position of France, where figures yesterday showed another healthy surplus during November. The seasonally adjusted trade surplus narrowed slightly in November to Fr7.63 billion from a revised surplus in October of Fr9.06 billion, provisional Customs Office data showed.

Separately, the national statistics institute, INSEE, said it had revised its figure for third-quarter 1993 gross domestic product to show growth of 0.3 per cent, against 0.2 per cent reported in December.



ROBIN MAYES

Richard Shaw, background, saw losses grow

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Cupid dives deeper into red

By Our City Staff

THE poor reception of the 1993 Pronuptia collection, coupled with competitive pressures pushed Cupid, the bridalwear and rent-a-tuxedo company, further into the red at the interim stage and prompted it to pass the dividend.

The outlook for the second half is no better, with sales "significantly below expectations," said Richard Shaw, Cupid's chairman. He warned shareholders that profits for the year would be below market expectations. Cupid lost £456,000 in the six months to September 30, compared with a loss of £168,000.

Last year, the company strengthened the management team and implemented a tough cost-cutting programme, the full benefits of which have yet to feed through. Overheads were lower but Mr Shaw, who joined as chairman last February, said: "The shortfall of sales against budget in certain areas of the business has more than negated the overall positive impact. An ongoing review of the cost base is likely to lead to further overhead savings."

Financial advisers' fees rise

By Sara McConnell
Personal Finance Correspondent

LARGE firms of independent financial advisers will bear the brunt of the 17 per cent fee increase for 1994-95 announced by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) yesterday.

The increase, which will be implemented in April, will fall only on registered individuals, not on fees of member firms, which stay the same. This means that firms with many registered individuals will see their fees rise by nearly a third in some cases, while small firms face a one or two percentage point increase. Fimbra operates a system of dual authorisation, requiring each individual employee or partner to be authorised as well as the firm for which they work.

Firms in category three, with 100 registered individuals, face a 32 per cent increase from £21,700 to £28,700. Independent advisers will also pay a larger proportion of any claim on their professional indemnity cover in pension transfer cases.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BankAmerica takes over Continental for $1.9bn

BANKAMERICA, the second largest US bank, announced a $1.9 billion takeover of Continental Bank, which was rescued by the government in 1984, but whose fortunes have since recovered. The deal will bring BankAmerica within $7 billion of toppling Citicorp as America's largest bank. Adding Continental's assets of $22.6 billion to its own $187 billion will close the gap on Citicorp's $210 billion. Up to 800 jobs will go, split between the two banks.

The move was welcomed by Wall Street, where BankAmerica's shares eased only 25 cents to $45.5. Continental's soared $6.875 to $34.754, a shade under the value of BankAmerica's bid, which will be funded by 21.25 million shares and $939 million in cash. Continental's operations in London include asset trading, risk management and corporate lending. Two years go BankAmerica made the largest bank takeover on record with a $4.5 billion bid for Security Pacific.

Pay-offs at Trafalgar

TRAFALGAR House, the shipping-to-property combine, is paying £1.3 million in compensation to former directors as part of its board reorganisation. The sum brings to £3.2 million the total pay-offs made over the past two years. The latest compensation is thought to cover the departure of John Ansdell, former finance director, David Calverley, formerly in charge of property, and part of the payment to Sir Eric Parker, at one time chief executive.

Slow recovery for Forte

FORTE, the hotels concern, said any recovery in its market had been slower than hoped for. The group, which is close to concluding a joint offer for Ciga, the Italian hotels chain, said occupancy in London hotels continued the strong trend seen in the first half of the year and other businesses in Britain improved, but trading in other European countries remained difficult. Rocco Forte, chief executive, said debt was now down to less than £1.2 billion. Tempus, page 23

Shell Oil doubles

SHELL Oil, Royal Dutch/Shell's North American subsidiary, more than doubled fourth-quarter net profits to $152 million from $71 million in the final three months of 1992. The result included a reduction in special charges to $28 million ($88 million). Overall 1993 net earnings totalled $781 million ($190 million loss). Shell Oil said the fourth quarter average domestic crude oil price of $12.19 a barrel was the lowest for any quarter in the last five years.

Markheath still in talks

MARKHEATH, the property group, is still discussing restructuring plans with its bankers, the board said in an interim report. The talks started last year, and their protracted nature led to delays in the interim and final results. There was a £2.55 million (£2.39 million) interest charge against interim results, which showed a £2.37 million pre-tax loss. This compared with a £4.71 million pre-tax lossin the first half of 1993, and a £68.8 million loss for the year to March 31, 1993.

Proteus loss grows

WORSE than expected losses at Proteus, the computer aided drugs designer, knocked 19p off the shares at 423p, erasing recent gains made on the back of new joint venture agreements. Proteus lost £2.73 million in the six months to September 30, compared with losses of £1.21 million last time. Loss per share was 10.08p (4.73p loss). Earlier this month the company announced a joint venture with American Home Products to co-develop animal vaccines and treatments.

Severn buys in Belgium

SEVERN Trent, the water and waste management company, has further expanded its waste management operations by buying Cotrans, the Belgian group, for £11.1 million cash. Severn has also won two municipal contracts in Britain — the municipal refuse and street sweeping contract in the Test Valley, Hampshire, and the municipal street sweeping contract at Kerrier, Cornwall. Severn already has 18 municipal contracts. The shares rose 12½p to 608½p.

Lloyd's admits further settlement errors

By Sarah Bagnall
Insurance Correspondent

LLOYD'S of London has admitted to more mistakes in the carve-up of the £900 million settlement offer, having offered 1,800 names a total of £5 million too little.

This is the second major adjustment to the offer, which is aimed at ending legal actions by thousands of names. The affected names are on Macmillan syndicates 80 and 843 for the 1988 underwriting account, Janson Green syndicate 1145 for 1989 and Wellington syndicate 406 for 1990. All four syndicates were affected by Lloyd's first round of miscalculations, which knocked £571,000 off the original offer of £15.6 million made to the 5,500 names on the syndicates.

Names on Wellington syndicate 406 have seen their offer yo-yo, having had their original offer cut by £579,000 to £2.2 million and now having had it increased. Names on the other three syndicates have benefited from both rounds of mistakes with increases on both adjustments.

Simon Blunt, chairman of the Macmillan 80 and 843 Names' Action Group, said: "I am astonished that Lloyd's are not able to get the revised offer correct. Even now, we have no way of knowing that the latest offer is right."

The errors, which Lloyd's said does not increase the size of the settlement offer because it set aside more than £5 million for contingency purposes, were revealed in a letter sent to names yesterday by David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman.

The missive, seen as a last ditch attempt to entice names to accept the offer, was accompanied by a letter from the errors and ommissions insurers, who have insured the members and managing agents being sued by names. Mr Rowland said his letter was to "clarify key issues" while the E&O insurers were speaking up because they "are concerned that their view of the true situation about funds available to meet litigation has not been clearly described to members".

Mr Rowland wrote: "The aim of the offer is to bring recompense to members who have suffered through the alleged negligence or incompetence of their appointed representatives." The offer was aimed at achieving a "much fairer and quicker solution" than the courts.

Don Carey, the lawyer representing the E&O insurers, who have contributed about £400 million to the settlement package, wrote: "This is a good and fair offer." Mr Rowland took the opportunity to reiterate that the offer would not be increased, adding that if the offer fails he would "regret it". The closing date for the offer is February 14.

W H SMITH: Sir Malcolm Field and Jeremy Hardie

Old acquaintances join forces in a new team

partners in power

Susan Gilchrist interviews the chief executive and his new chairman at the ubiquitous high street retailer

The working relationship between Sir Simon Hornby and Sir Malcolm Field has lasted longer than most marriages. For the past 23 years the two have worked diligently side by side to turn W H Smith from a family firm into an international retailing empire. It has been a happy and fruitful partnership, but it finally came to an end this week as Sir Simon bowed out gracefully into retirement.

Sir Malcolm, promoted from managing director to chief executive, has now found a new partner in the form of Jeremy Hardie, W H Smith's deputy chairman since September 1992 and a director of John Swire, one of Britain's biggest private companies.

On first meeting, the pair seem well-suited. They both possess immense charm, humour and a civility that is usually associated with a bygone age. It is not difficult to imagine them at the helm of W H Smith in the days when it was the shop where our grandfathers bought tobacco and copies of the *Daily Sketch*.

But as with all embryonic relationships, there is a certain unfamiliarity at first. The instinctive understanding of how the other person will react and the verbal shorthand used by those who know each other well has yet to develop.

"Of course it is an unknown," Sir Malcolm says. "I have to think more about how I communicate things. I can't just walk along the corridor into his office and say 'Hey I've got an idea' in the way I did with Simon." But he and Mr Hardie are by no means strangers. They first met in 1976 when W H Smith was called before the MMC investigation into newspaper distribution — the first of three such enquiries. Sir Malcolm, then wholesale director, appeared before the panel of five members, one of whom was Mr Hardie.

"I was really quite nervous," says Sir Malcolm. "This was an important part of our business which was under review. I had to sit in front of this imposing panel with hordes of bureaucrats behind them, one or two of them sound asleep but others writing furiously."

He remembers Mr Hardie very clearly. "There was Jeremy, asking all these difficult, penetrating questions. I remember saying to one of my colleagues 'You know its a great shame he is not on our side'. He was intelligent, he had done his homework and he really understood the business. I thought he was an extremely able man."

> "He had done his homework and understood the business. I thought he was extremely able"

Now, with Mr Hardie, rather unusually, gamekeeper turned poacher, Sir Malcolm at last has his wish. And with W H Smith in the throes of yet another political tussle, this time with the DTI, the timing could not be better.

The pair met again a few years later on the board of Naafi, the armed forces' retail and catering operations. On that occasion Sir Malcolm was the chairman and Mr Hardie the deputy. "He was always asking difficult questions then too," recalls Sir Malcolm with a smile. Mr Hardie is nothing if not an independent thinker, the antithesis of the corporate "yes-man" who always stoops to concur.

Sir Malcolm believes this clarity of thought is one of Mr Hardie's greatest strengths. "You only have to outline an issue to him and he will quickly understand it and come back with a lucid view." Educated at New College and Nuffield College, Oxford, Mr Hardie later became a fellow and economics tutor at Keble College. He has also been chairman of the Centre for Economic Policy Research and treasurer of the Royal Economic Society, and was on the Peacock committee which investigated the financing of the BBC.

In contrast, Sir Malcolm rejected a place at Cambridge, despite his desire to win a soccer blue, in order to enter what he saw as the more exciting world of commerce. "I have always been quite impetuous and eager to get on," he says. He joined ICI as a management trainee in 1957 but left two years later disenchanted with the slow pace of progress. He joined the family newspaper wholesaling business, which was acquired by W H Smith four years later, and has stayed ever since.

"Jeremy is far more academic than I am, although he has a clear understanding of commercial life. But there is a slight touch of the absent-minded professor about him. He can be walking along the corridor and walk straight past someone. Not because he is rude, he is actually one of the nicest men I have ever met, but because he is just deep in thought ... It is really rather charming."

The two, however, share a passion for the arts. Sir Malcolm is a council member of the Royal College of Art while Mr Hardie is a former member of the Arts Council. They both have a philosophy of affluent altruism. W H Smith's head office is something of a cultural oasis with works of art on every available wall. Surprisingly, for such an established firm, the works are predominantly by modern or up-and-coming artists. The boardroom houses a vast Elizabeth Frink tapestry rather than the ususal sombre oil paintings of previous patriarchal chairmen.

Both men are avid readers. Appropriately, perhaps, Sir Malcolm has just finished Vikrem Seth's epic novel *A Suitable Boy* while Mr Hardie is tackling an obscure, demanding book of philosophy.

But then, there are few things that daunt Jeremy Hardie, which is why he has no qualms about stepping into Sir Simon's well-heeled shoes. Indeed, he has already set about changing round the former chairman's office — the books will stay, but the television and computer will feature more prominently. "What is not going to happen is that Simon Hornby goes and I come in and sit at his desk and do the same thing," he says.

However, like his predecessor, he believes he has developed a good rapport with Sir Malcolm. He remembers him "very well" from his appearance before the MMC. "Athough on the face of it the MMC is a tribunal-type procedure concerned with evidence and argument, a great deal of what you decide is based on your impression of the company and the people. Malcolm came over as someone who seemed truthful and straight, which is exactly what he is."

His understanding of the man developed further during their time at Naafi. "I discovered he perseveres. He conscientiously identifies what he thinks needs to be done and over a period gets there. He is not at all self-important and doesn't think he is grand." It is essential to retain a sense of humour about one's position — in the corporate jungle it is often said that the higher a monkey climbs the more you see its behind.

Mr Hardie says he noticed this lack of pretension and pomposity from the start: "If Malcolm doesn't understand something or it is outside his area of expertise he asks and finds out and learns. He sees the job as something you have to do with all the help you can get. He is not proud in that way, and he recognises that other people have got things to contribute."

That is not to say he can be easily influenced: "He is not susceptible to fashion or the last person he spoke to. He can take the tough decisions." Sir Malcolm, who is the embodiment of charm, combines that rare ability to put his foot down without appearing to step on anybody's toes.

Mr Hardie agrees with Sir Malcolm that one of the strongest weapons in his own armoury is his analytical mind. However, he believes this has its limits. "Business is not primarily to do with analysis and rationality. It is to do with taking bets and taking decisions in which analysis and rationality are a handicap. The returns on that sort of thinking run out very fast." Logic, after all, can often simply be the art of going wrong with confidence.

But Mr Hardie refuses to swing too far the other way and pretend he intuitively understands everything about the retailing business. "The great trap for chairmen is to say 'I was in Waterstone's the other day and it seems to me they should have green notices rather than pink ones'. It just drives everybody mad. You must not be this allegedly streetwise 55-year-old. But then I don't have the long history in the business that Simon had, my job is to think laterally and bring an independent point of view."

His fresh perspective coupled with Sir Malcolm's experience could well provide the foundations of another successful corporate marriage for W H Smith.



JAMES MORGAN

Jeremy Hardie, left, in taking over as chairman of W H Smith, is renewing a working relationship with Sir Malcolm Field

BRANDON HIRE (Int) Pre-tax:£99,000 EPS:0.86p (0.59p) Div:Nil (nil)	Last time's profit was £61,000. Economic recovery still patchy, although directors optimistic for full-year dividend.
CATHAY INTNL (Int) Pre-tax:£515,000 loss. LPS:0.086p (LPS 0.91p) Div:Nil (nil)	Last time's loss was £170,000. Significant progress in increasing exposure to China. Projects being evaluated.
WHOLESALE FITTINGS Pre-tax:£1,030,000. EPS:4.96p (4.40p) Div:3.23p (3.23p)	Interim results. Last time's profit was £934,000. Trading margins healthy on sales up from £30.3m to £34.5m.
WINTRUST (Int) Pre-tax:£1,233,819 EPS:7.36p (5.53p) Div:3.3p (3p)	Last time's profit was £1,014,118. Activity levels expanding and considerable opportunities from recession.
J & J DYSON (Int) Pre-tax:£401,340 EPS:2.03p (1.65p) Div:1.5p (2p)	Last time's profit was £340,574. Improvement in all sectors. Trading still difficult in core refractories business.
GOODHEAD GROUP (Int) Pre-tax:£303,000 EPS:0.4p (LPS 23.2p) Div:Nil (nil)	Last time's loss was £3.7 million. Divestment programme completed. Do not see improvement in trading in the second half.
C. H. BAILEY (Int) Pre-tax:£206,359 loss LPS:0.34p (EPS 1.26p) Div: Nil (nil)	Last time's profit was £773,256. Results for full year expected to show little improvement. Better prospects for leisure arm.

TEMPUS

Sainsbury serves up a softer option

SAINSBURY has not often taken the soft option, but yesterday's attempt to introduce some rigour into its accounting practices was thoroughly half-hearted.

The food retailing group did its credibility much damage by trying to soften the financial blows that Tesco took on its chin last week.

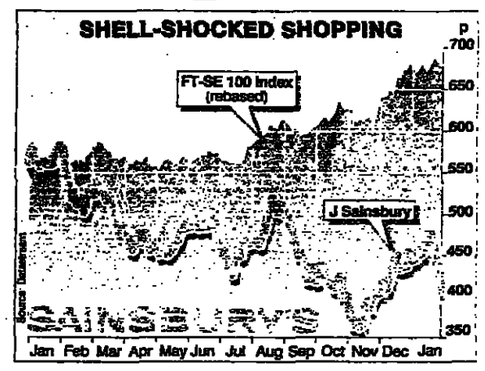
The decision to depreciate its stores over 50 years rather than 40, the benchmark set by Argyll, was a shameless attempt to protect the profit and loss account by £7 million a year.

Similarly, the treatment of property portfolio was lax. By not valuing its superstores on an alternative use basis, Sainsbury kept the write-off to a minimum. This allows it to take the charge in one lump, while Tesco's profits will be depressed by annual charges for the next two decades.

Perhaps the downturn in trading spooked Sainsbury enough to take it easy on its figures. But since like-for-like sales are falling, the group should slow down its development programme rather than invest £460 million a year in a market that is stagnating.

If food retailing has become a mature industry, as recent events imply, Sainsbury and its competitors would do much better to harness their cash flow to invest elsewhere, or even hand more of it back to their shareholders. The group's refusal to slow down its development programme suggests it cannot believe the signs of its own mortality.

Even allowing for its easy accounting, Sainsbury's shares stand on a 30 per cent premium to its large rivals. That does not look justified on the basis of yesterday's despatch from the supermarket war.



Yorkshire Tyne-Tees

Yorkshire Tyne-Tees Television has become a reluctant wallflower in the recent round of media bids, and these results suggest more than just its twin franchise prevents the company finding a partner. The effects of the debacle in Yorkshire's advertising sales are likely to reverberate for some time.

While the £20.2 million might clear Yorkshire's books of its deal debt, the company's reputation among advertisers has taken a heavy dent. Its share of the advertising market has fallen to less than 10 per cent from nearer 11.5 per cent, costing almost £25 million in lost revenue.

Yorkshire is relying on Laser, LWT's advertising sales business to rebuild that revenue, but Laser has become a pawn in the Granada-LWT bid. If the bid succeeds, Yorkshire could be faced with the unappealing alternatives of rethinking its whole advertising arrangements or being content that its airtime is sold by a large, neighbouring rival.

Yorkshire needs that revenue to help pay its punitive £53 million annual cash bid for the two franchises to the Treasury. It is doing its best to address its grim cash flow projections with a 27 per cent cut in the workforce, but even if it can repeat last year's £8 million cut in staff costs the numbers do not look much better.

So when Ward Thomas says he is happy to sit out this current round of bids, he is simply making a virtue out of the inevitable. If he hopes to auction the company off for a high in the future he is playing a dangerous game. The fashionable premiums being paid for television companies could evaporate as quickly as they have been created.

If a partner does emerge for Yorkshire, the company should not be shy about dropping the Tyne-Tees franchise and accepting.

Forte

IF trading updates like that from Forte and from Zeneca a week before become any more common, the City is going to have to cope with three heavy company announcement seasons rather than two. From Forte the news is mixed, but welcome all the same.

London hotels have turned up at last, but disappointingly late. Provincial hotels are now looking better, but conditions elsewhere in Europe are bleak and progress at Travelodge is modest.

Forte can look to raise £150 million from disposals and more than £100 million in addition once Gardner Merchant comes to the stock market this year or next, making the group well placed to meet its target of a £500 million debt reduction by March 1996.

Forte has moved to reassure the market about its French Relais operation. While the business had been hit by lower traffic volumes, it will still be earnings-enhancing in the first year of ownership.

All in all, any recovery in trading will be painfully slow, and the real progress is going to come on the debt front. Most of that good news is probably already in the market.

BAe gets £67m order for jets

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIR Malta has placed a £67 million order for four Avro RJ70 regional jets with British Aerospace.

The purchase comes less than three weeks after a Turkish Airlines order for three RJ100 planes and suggests that the four-engine RJ may be on course to regain sales leadership of the regional jet market.

Last year, the RJ was displaced by the twin-engine Fokker 100 as uncertainty over the future of the Avro business hit sales, with the third player in the market, the twin-engine Boeing 737-500 also competing hard. However, BAe renewed its commitment to maintain the Avro business at the end of last year in spite of the breakdown of talks designed to put it into a joint venture with Taiwan Aerospace.

Write-downs, reorganisation and job cuts, including 580 announced two weeks ago, are now expected to end losses at the aircraft's manufacturing site at Woodford Aerodrome, Cheshire.

The latest contracts take the RJ order book to 33 aircraft, sufficient to keep the factory busy for more than 18 months at present production rates. About 225 examples of the RJ, or its forerunner, the BAe146 "Whisper Jet", have now been delivered.

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American GDP brings some cheer to dealers in London

THE London stock market celebrated some better than expected American economic news with a 45-point turnround.

The FT-SE 100 index ended the two-week trading account on a firm note, wiping out an early fall of 24 points as fears of an increase in American interest rates showed signs of receding.

Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, led the way higher as a big buyer of the financial future.

The index ended the session near its best of the day, up 20.1 points at 3,447.4, aided by an opening gain in the Dow Jones industrial average. This helped to reduce the fall in the index over the two-week period to 36.8 points. The

STOCK MARKET

American gross domestic product for the fourth quarter was warmly received in the Square Mile where dealers had become worried about inflationary pressures.

Turnover in London again topped one billion shares, with heavy turnover reported in leading companies such as **BTR**, up 14p at 371p, where 14 million shares changed hands.

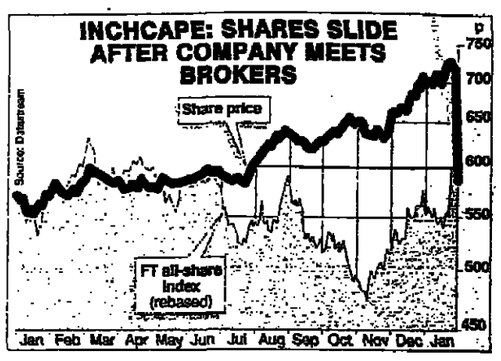
Heavy turnover was also reported in **J Sainsbury** as it fell 48p to 393p on the back of a disappointing trading statement confirming a decline in gross margins. The group said that it expected to achieve a small increase in pre-tax profits before stripping out a £40 million depreciation charge and a £365 million property write-down. By the close of business, a total of 24 million Sainsbury shares had been traded.

The other big food retailers were mauled after the announcement from Sainsbury, with **Argyll** down 15p at 257p, **Asda** 4p at 58½p, **Iceland Group** 10p at 169p, **William Morrison Supermarkets** 6p lower 109p, and **Tesco** 1p at 222, after 217p, and **Kwik Save** 27p at 593p.

The food manufacturers were rattled by the plight of the supermarket chains, with brokers becoming increasingly worried about the gloomy outlook. Losses were witnessed in **Booker**, 8p to 446p, **Carr's Milling**, 4p to 189p, **Cranswick**, 5p to 160p, **Dalgety**, 19p to 503p, **Northern Foods**, 15p to 232p, **Unigate**, 17p to 392p, and **United Biscuits** 9p to 369p.

Hazlewood was another weak market, dropping 9p to 154p. The word is that the group plans to meet a number of brokers in the next few weeks. **Marks and Spencer** rallied in the wake of Thursday's profits warning, with the price adding 10p to 436p.

INCHCAPE: SHARES SLIDE AFTER COMPANY MEETS BROKERS



But **Inchcape** reacted badly to Thursday's presentation for brokers that indicated that hopes of big currency gains had been exaggerated. Analysts have now begun downgrading their profit forecasts.

British Steel climbed 7p to 139p as Kleinwort Benson, the broker, continued pushing the shares. It has been pointing out to clients that steel prices in Europe are rising.

Forte marked time at 261p after issuing an encouraging trading statement. The group said that business had been in line with expectations, with London hotel occupancies high. Steady improvements were reported in its other domestic operations, but business in Europe remained difficult. Borrowings had been reduced to £1.2 billion.

Markheath, the property developer, fell 1¾p to 5¼p after weighing in with a £2.37 million loss for the first six months and no dividend.

Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, which aborted merger talks with LWT earlier this month, touched 250p before ending the day only 1p firmer at 234p.

The group, as expected, plunged into the red last year with a pre-tax loss of £7.8 million compared with a profit of £19.69 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** gilts rallied after three days of losses helped by a demand for the future and the latest American GDP. The March series of the Long Gilt firmed £11/16 to £118²⁷/₃₂ in active trading that saw 96,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 rose £²¹/₃₂ to £125¹⁵/₁₆, while at the shorter end, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was £³/₈ better at £115²¹/₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares extended their rally into midday, enjoying the best of all possible worlds after the GDP announcement. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 16.88 points to 3,943.18.

MICHAEL CLARK

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $	1.5038 (+0.0110)
German mark	2.5993 (+0.0044)
Exchange index	82.4 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3447.4 (+20.1)
Dow Jones	3943.18 (+16.88)*
Nikkei Avg	18757.88 (-133.91)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	5½%
3-month Interbank	5⅝-5⅛%
US Federal Funds	3¼-3½%*
3-month Treas Bills	2.94-2.93%*
Long Bond	6.20%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£ $	1.5005*	£ $	1.5000
$ DM	1.7326*	£ DM	2.6007
$ SwFr	1.4627*	£ SwFr	2.1945
$ Fr	5.8955*	£ Fr	8.8460
$ Yen	109.40*	£ Yen	164.45
$ SDR	1.0842	£ ECU	1.3383

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($)
AM 378.15 PM 378.25
Close 378.00-378.50
New York
Comex 377.75-378.25*

OIL

Brent Crude ... $14.15 per bbl (Mar)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.9 Dec (1.9%) Jan 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.26	2.06
Austria Sch	19.25	17.75
Belgium Fr	56.89	52.49
Canada $	2.094	1.934
Cyprus Cypf	0.809	0.759
Denmark Kr	10.71	9.91
Finland Mrk	9.04	8.24
France Fr	9.29	8.59
Germany Dm	2.75	2.54
Greece Dr	395.00	370.00
Hong Kong $	12.26	11.26
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lra	2641.00	2459.00
Japan Yen	179.00	162.00
Malta	0.630	0.575
Netherlds Gld	3.060	2.830
Norway Kr	11.77	10.97
Portugal Esc	272.00	253.50
S Africa Rd	5.85	4.95
Spain Pta	217.50	203.50
Sweden Kr	12.46	11.66
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.15
Turkey Lira	27050.0	25550.0
USA $	1.601	1.471

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

Courtaulds Textiles to pay £45m for Hartstone outlets

■ **Analysts upgraded profit forecasts for Courtaulds Textiles after the acquisition of two hosiery businesses from the financially troubled Hartstone Group**

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

COURTAULDS Textiles is buying the bulk of Hartstone's European hosiery businesses. It is paying the troubled leather to stockings group £45 million in cash, and is also assuming about £20 million of debt.

The deal marks an important step in Hartstone's attempt to get back on a secure financial footing after it ran into difficulties last year, following four years of aggressive over-expansion.

Shaun Dowling, who took over as chairman last May, said the disposal would allow the group to focus on its more profitable leather goods operations.

If shareholders approve the deal, net borrowings will fall from about £90 million to £53 million, representing gearing of 118 per cent.

The businesses being sold are Cogetex and Sotexa in France, which have 28 per cent of the French hosiery market, and selected parts of Hartstone's hosiery business in Britain, including the Bear brand name.

Noel Jervis, Courtaulds Textiles' new chief executive, who replaced Martin Taylor earlier this month, said the acquisition would boost the group's presence in continental Europe and consolidate its position in Britain, where it already holds the number two position with its Aristoc brand.

Trading profits for the French business in the year to March 31, 1993, were £3.7 million, while the British business made a trading loss of £1 million.

Courtaulds Textiles, under the chairmanship of Sir Christopher Hogg, said it anticipated trading profits this year would be between £4 million and £5 million.

Although the purchase price represents a premium of £8.7 million over net assets, analysts have welcomed the deal and have moved to upgrade their profit forecasts for Courtaulds Textiles by some £2 million to about £48 million.



Sir Christopher: group expanding on Continent

RECENT ISSUES

Baring Emrg Euro	72¼	- ½
Baring Emrg Eur Wts	43¼	- ¼
Fairbairn Euro Smlr (100)	98	...
Finsbury Undrwrtng Inv	113	...
For & Col Smaller (100)	118½	...
Friends Prov Ethical (60)	60	...
Friends Prov Uts (120)	126	...
Friends Prov Zero Pf (60)	62	- ½
Pantheon Wts	83	...
Rackwood (40)	45	...
Rossmont (10)	11½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Anglo Irish n/p (48)	19	...
Cementone n/p (73)	15	...
Crest Nicholson n/p (88)	10	-2
Halkin n/p (68)	½	...
Ramus n/p (25)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Yorks Chem	463p (+11p)
Land Sec	754p (+13p)
Oriflame Int	332p (+22p)
Lloyds	640p (+11p)
Wimtrust	360p (+30p)
Redland	630p (+14p)
Paterson Zoch	515p (+37p)
Caradon	446p (+16p)
BOC	697p (+12p)
BTR	371p (+13p)

FALLS:

Kingfisher	628p (-15p)
Vendome	440p (-10p)
Allied Lyons	637p (-11p)
Whitbread 'A'	592p (-11p)
Inchcape	586p (-20p)
Argyll	258p (-14p)
Dalgety	503p (-19p)
Kwik Save	593p (-27p)

Closing Prices Page 24

Midlands rail centre closer

A new £380 million rail freight terminal in the Midlands came a step closer yesterday when John Gummer, Environment Secretary, said he was "minded" to approve the application by PowerGen and Trafalgar House to build it, at the former Hams Hall power station, near Birmingham.

His final decision will be subject to measures to reduce the impact of road traffic.

SelecTV warns

SelecTV, the independent TV producer, has warned shareholders that a rise in pre-tax profits, from £287,000 to £614,000 in the half-year to end-September, will not be carried into the second half because fewer programmes were now being delivered. The shares fell 2p to 33p.

Airbus snag

Air Inter, the French domestic airline, has grounded the first Airbus A330 twin-jet to go into service, because of repeated problems with its landing gear. Engineers are understood to believe that the problem is specific to this aircraft.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"We intend to look very closely at concrete British experiences," the minister added, in a public reflection of what politicians, industrialists and the German public have gradually come to accept: Germany is now a high-cost, uncompetitive economy..."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

WALL STREET

	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
AMP Inc	63	62⅝
Amfl Corp	70½	69¾
Abbott Labs	29¾	29
Aetna Life	37½	36⅝
Alumacrum (Pit)	18¾	18⅝
Air Prod & Chem	48⅝	48½
Albertson's	25⅝	26
Alcan Aluminium	23½	22⅝
Alld Signaled	39½	39⅝
Allied Signal	78⅜	78
Allum Co of Am	76½	76½
Amax Gold Inc	6¼	6¼
Amerada Hess	48⅛	47
Amer Brands	34½	34¼
Amer Cyanamid	49⅜	49⅜
Amer El Power	36⅛	36½
Amer Express	32⅝	32
Amer Genl Corp	37⅜	37⅜
Amer Home Pr	63⅜	63¾
Amer Intl	92½	92¾
Amer Stores	42⅝	42½
Amer T & T	59⅛	59
Ameritech	40¾	40¾
Amoco	53⅜	53⅝
Anheuser-Busch	48⅛	48⅛
Apple Computer	34¼	34¼
Archer Daniels	26⅝	26⅝
Arkla	8½	8½
Armco	6¼	6¼
Armstrong Wrld	55⅛	55⅝
Asarco	23½	23⅝
Ashland Oil	37¾	37¾
Atl Richfield	110½	110⅝
Auto Data Pro	54⅜	53⅞
Avery Dennison	28	28
Avon Products	54	54¼
Baker Hughes	19⅜	20
Baltim Gas & El	25	24⅞
Banc One	38	37½
BankAmerica	45½	45⅜
Bank of NY	56½	55⅝
Bankers Tr NY	82⅜	81½
Barnett Banks	43⅝	43⅝
Baxter Int	33⅜	33⅝
Bausch & Lomb	35½	35⅝
Bauter Intl	22⅝	23⅛
Becn Dickinsn	39½	39¾
BellAtlantic	57¼	57
BellSouth	60⅜	60
Black & Decker	21¼	21⅛
Block (H&R)	44⅝	43½
Boeing	42⅝	42⅝
Boise Cascade	28⅝	28⅝
Borden Inc	15½	15⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	58	57⅝
Browning Ferris	29⅛	29⅝
Brunswick	19¼	19¾
Burlington Nthn	63⅜	62⅞
CBS	266¼	265½
CNA Financial	79½	79¾
CPC Intl	68	67⅞
CSX	89	89¾
Campbell Scup	38⅛	38⅜
Can Pacific	17⅝	17⅝
Cpn Cities ABC	660¼	663¼
Cpn Holdings	28⅝	28⅝
Carolina Pwr	29⅝	29⅝
Caterpillar	103½	101½
Central & SW	30½	30
Champion Intl	35⅞	35⅜
Chase Manhat	36¼	35⅝
Chemical Bk	39⅜	38⅞
Chevron Corp	91¼	91¼
Chrysler	61½	60⅝
Chubb Corp	81½	81¼
Cigna Corp	67⅝	66¾
Cincorp	42½	41¾
Clorox	51½	51½
Coastal Corp	30⅝	30⅜
Coca Cola	41¾	41⅝
Colgate-Palmolive	59¾	59¾
Columbia Gas	25	25
Commonwlth Ed	28⅜	28
Compaq Comp	61½	62¼
Comp Ass Int	38⅜	38¾
Conagra	27¾	26¾
Cons Edison	31½	31½
Cons Nat Gas	48	48¼
Cons Rail	63¼	64⅛
Cooper Inds	41½	41¾
Corning Inc	31⅝	31¾
Crown Cork	38½	38½
Dana Corp	57¾	57⅝
Dayton Hudson	66⅝	66⅝
Deere	79¾	77¾
Delta Air Lines	54¾	54¼
Delcora Corp	34½	34¼
Detroit Edison	29⅜	29⅜
Digital Equip	30⅜	30⅜
Dillard Dept St	36	35½
Disney (Walt)	46⅝	46¾
Dominion Res	43½	43⅝
Donelley (RR)	30⅜	31
Dover Corp	59⅝	59⅝
Dow Chemical	82⅝	82⅝
Dow Jones	40	39⅝
Dresser	21	20⅝
Duke Power	42¾	42½
Dun & Bradstreet	62⅝	63
Du Pont	55⅞	55½
Eastman Kodak	42½	43

	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
Exxon Corp	57½	57
Emerson Elec	62¾	62¾
Engelhard Corp	27	26½
Enron Corp	32⅜	32⅜
Entgy Corp	18¾	18½
Exxon	65⅛	65¼
FMC Corp	47¾	47¾
FPL Group	37	37
Federal Express	74½	73¾
Fed Nat Mtge	88⅜	87¾
First Chicago	48¼	47
First Interstate	70½	69⅝
First Union Bdg	10¾	10¾
Fleet Fin Grp	35¾	35½
Fluor Corp	43¾	43
Ford Motor	66⅝	66¼
GTE Corp	34¾	34⅝
Gannett	57¾	56¾
Gap Inc Del	42¾	42
Gen Dynamics	92⅜	92
Gen Electric	108⅝	108¼
Gen Mills	58¾	59
Gen Motors	60¾	59½
Gen Reinsurance	112½	113¾
Gen Signal	35⅝	35⅝
Genuine Parts	38¾	38¾
Georgia Pac	75¾	75¾
Gillette	61¼	61¼
Glaxo ADR	19⅝	19⅝
Goodrich (BF)	41¼	40⅝
Goodyear Tire	48⅜	48⅜
Grace (WR)	45¾	44¾
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23¾	24
Great West Fin	19½	19¾
Halliburton	31¾	31¼
Harcourt General	39¾	39
Heinz (HJ)	39¾	38¾
Hercules	110¼	110
Hershey Foods	48⅝	49
Hewlett Packard	83¾	82⅝
Hilton Hotels	63	63¾
Home Depot	39⅜	38¾
Homestake Mng	21¾	21¼
Honeywell	32¾	32½
Household Intl	31¾	31¼
Houston Inds	48¼	45¾
Humana	19⅜	18½
ITT Corp	97½	97¼
Illinois Tool	42¾	42¼
INCO	27¼	26⅝
Ingersoll Rand	39	39⅜
Inland Steel	35¾	34½
Intel Corp	65	64¼
IBM	57¾	57¼
Intl Flav & Fr	37¾	38½
Intl Paper	75¾	74½
James River Va	19⅝	19¾
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	45¾	45¾
K Mart	19½	19¼
Kellogg	54¾	54¾
Kerr-McGee	46	45¾
Kimberly-Clark	56¾	55½
Knight-Ridder	57¾	57¼
Lilly (Eli)	59¾	59¾
Limited Inc	18	18
LDN Brdcstng	112½	111¾
Lincoln Nat	41¼	41
Limn	68	67¾
Lit Chalkbone	21	21¼
McDnnl Dglas	64¾	63¾
Louisiana Pac	44½	45
MCI Common	27⅞	28
Marrion Int	28¾	27¾
Marsh & McLen	81¾	82¾
Mayn Corp	38⅜	37¾
May Dept St	40¾	39¾
Maytag Corp	18½	18½
McDrm Cnfdrtr	54¾	55¼
McDonalds	60¼	60
McDonnell D	115¾	111¾
McGraw Hill	66¾	66¾
Mead Corp	47¾	46½
Medtronic	83¾	83¾
Mellon Bk	58¾	55¾
Melville Corp	39¾	39
Merck Inc	36¼	35¾
Merrill Lynch	43¾	43¾
Minnesota Mine	106¾	106¾
Mobil Corp	80¾	80¾
Monsanto	78¾	76¾
Morgan (JP)	71	70½
Motorola Inc	100¼	101¼
Natl Medical	15¾	15½
Natl Semi	18¾	18
Natl Service Ind	28¾	27
Nationsr Inc	29¾	29¾
NBD Bancorp	29¾	29¾
NY Times A	27¾	27½
Newmont Mng	54¼	54
Nike Inc Cl B	49¾	49¾
NL Industries	6¼	6½
Nordstrom	33¾	33¾
Norfolk Sthrn	72¾	72¾
Nthn States Pwr	43¾	43¾
Norwest Corp	26¾	26¾
Nynex Corp	41	40¾
Occidental Pet	17¾	17¾
Ohio Edison	22¾	22
Oracle Systems	32¾	33¾

	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
Oryx Energy Co	17¾	17¾
Owens Corning	43¾	43¾
PNC Financial	28¾	28¾
PPG Industries	57¾	57¾
Pacific Inc	60½	61
Pacificorp	18¾	18¾
Pac Enterprises	23	23
Pac Gas & Elect	23¾	23¾
Pac Telesis	37¾	36¾
Pall Corp	19	19
Panhandle East	24¾	24¾
Paramnt Comm	79¾	79¾
Parker Hannifin	37¾	37¾
Penney (JC)	52½	53¾
Pennzoil	54¾	54¾
Pepsico	40¾	40¾
Pfizer	63	63
Phelps Dodge	53½	53¾
Philadel Elec	26¾	26¾
Philip Morris	59¾	59¾
Phillips Pet	29¾	29¾
Pitney Bowes	43¾	43¾
Polaroid	35¾	34¾
PriceCosco	17¾	17¾
Procter & Gmbl	99¾	98¾
Pub Serv E & G	31¾	31¼
Quaker Oats	62¾	63¾
Ralston Purina	37¾	37¾
Raychem Corp	36¾	36¾
Raytheon	69¾	69¾
Reebok Int	33¾	33¾
Reynolds Metals	50¾	50¾
Rhodesy Svcs	68¾	68¾
Rockwell Intl	40	39¾
Rohm & Haas	58	58¾
Royal Dutch	106½	107¼
Rubbermaid	31¾	31½
Safeco Corp	59¾	59¾
St Paul Cos	87¾	87¾
Salomon Inc	49	48¾
Santa Fe Pac	24¾	24½
Sara Lee Corp	23¾	23¾
Saxon Ind	19¾	19¾
Schering Plough	64¾	64¾
Schlumberger	58¾	57¾
Scott Paper	45¾	45¾
Seagrams	39¾	39¾
Sears Roebuck	53	54¼
Shell Trans	65¾	65¾
Sherwin Wilms	34¾	33¾
Skyline Corp	20¾	21
Smng-Gn-Frnds	41¼	41¼
Southern Co	43¾	43¾
Sthwestern Bell	41¼	40¾
Sprint Corp	36	36¾
Stanley Works	43¾	43¾
Sun Company	31¾	31¾
Sun Microsys	27	27
Sunmed	46	45¾
Supervalu	38¾	38¾
Synetic Corp	19¾	19¾
Sysco Corp	28	27¾
TRW Inc	74¾	74½
Tandem Comp	13¾	13¾
Tandy Corp	45¾	46¾
Telecom Corp	3¾	3¾
Teledyne	24	25¾
Temple Inland	52¾	52¾
Tenneco	56¾	54¾
Tenneco	66¾	66
Texas Inst	71¼	71
Texas Utilities	39¾	39¾
Textron	59¾	58¾
Time Warner	41	39¾
Times-Mirror	36¾	36¾
Timken	35¾	36
Torchmark	47¾	47
Toys 'R' Us	37¾	37
Transamerica	53	54
Travelers	42	41¾
Tribune	59¾	60
Tyco Labs	52¾	51¾
UAL Corp	146½	145¾
UST Inc	28¾	28¾
USX Marathon	18¾	18
Unilever NV	116¾	116½
Unicorp	49¾	48
Union Carbide	24¾	24¾
Union Pacific	63¾	63¾
Unisys Corp	13¾	13¾
USAIR Group	14¾	14¾
USWEST Corp	34¾	34¾
US Life	39¾	39
US West	44¾	44
United Tech	64¾	64¾
United Corp	28¾	28
Upjohn	29¾	29¾
VF Corp	46	46¾
Wkhl Tech	29¾	29¾
Wal-Mart Stores	26¾	26
Warner-Lambert	64¾	64¾
Wells Fargo	138½	135
Westinghouse El	14	13¾
Weyerhaeuser	48¾	48¾
Whirlpool	68	67¾
Wiltmtnn	15¾	15¾
Winn Dixie	50¾	50¾
Woolworth	25¾	25¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	45¾	45¾
Xerox	92¾	92¾

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	35,000	Cadbury	1,100	MEPC	913	Scot Power	2,000
Abbey Natl	3,800	Caradon	1,700	Marks Spr	6,100	Sears	8,600
Alld-Lyons	3,100	Carlton Cms	1,100	NFC	3,000	Svrn Trent	2,900
Anglian W	3,300	Coats Vyla	3,200	NatWst Bk	4,300	Shell Trans	5,100
Argyll Gp	11,000	Cm Union	600	Nat Power	3,000	Siebe	2,300
Arjo Wiggn	1,900	Courtaulds	1,100	Nth Wst W	3,000	SmKl Bch	3,900
AB Foods	457	Enterpr Oil	1,600	Nthrn Fds	3,700	Smith Nph	2,000
BAA	739	Ferre	6,500	P & O	2,100	Southern Elec	828
BAT Inds	4,700	GRE	895	Pearson	2,500	Std Chartd	643
BOC	200	GUS	1,900	PowerGen	2,400	Sun Allince	2,100
BP	13,000	Gen Acc	2,900	Prudential	5,600	TI Gp	2,000
BTR	15,000	Gent Elec	5,400	RMC	950	TSB	5,800
BT	14,000	Glaxo	4,500	RTZ	3,900	Tesco	18,000
Bk of Scot	1,700	Granada	2,200	Rank Org	2,200	Thames W	2,200
Barclays	3,100	Grand Met	3,600	Reckitt Col	534	Thrn EMI	1,800
Bass	2,400	Guinness	7,700	Redland	1,800	Tomkins	2,700
Blue Circle	3,100	HSBC	3,100	Reed Intl	1,000	Unilever	2,000
Boots	2,300	Hanson	23,000	Rentokil	1,300	Utd Biscs	1,900
Bowater	1,200	ICI	2,700	Reuters	242	Vodafone	2,900
Brit Aero	2,600	Inchcape	6,400	Rolls Royce	5,900	Warburg	4,900
Brit Airways	6,200	Kingfisher	4,700	Ryl Ins	4,500	Wellcome	2,000
Brit Gas	13,000	Ladbroke	4,900	Ryl Bk Scot	436	Whitbrd 'A'	1,600
Brit Steel	26,000	Land Secs	2,300	Sainsbury	24,000	Wilms Hld	2,900
Burmah Cast	772	Legal & Gn	712	Schroders	156	Wolseley	128
Cable Wire	3,800	Lloyds Bk	3,600	Scot & Nwc	696	Zeneca	948

FT-SE INDEX (*3448)

3300	3350	3400	3450	3500	3550
Calls					
Feb 181	137	98	61	36	20
Mar 193	154	117	88	63	43
Apr 209	173	138	110	84	62
May 230	193	162	133	107	86
Jun 249	—	181	—	124	—
Puts					
Feb 8	14	23	40	68	105
Mar 27	38	51	72	97	129
Apr 41	55	70	91	116	145
May 57	71	89	109	133	163
Jun 69	—	101	—	145	—

	Series	Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Allid Dmn	600	5a	46	74	8	23	29½
Asda	240	21	27	47½	29	48	53
Anglia	240	29	34	39	7	14	17½
BAA	260	—	24	29	15	24	27½
BOC	500	11	32	44	2	3	5
Boots	600	7	17	25	5	16	20½
Bowtr	500	56½	65	72	7	17	20½
BP	550	25	37½	43½	26	37½	42
Brit Airways	660	32½	44	52½	19	39	45
BAT	500	14½	25	35	43	52½	57½
BP	360	28	32½	39	1½	2½	3½
Brit Steel	150	15	20	25½	5	8½	11½
Bunns	140	9½	15	18	9½	14	16½
C & W	500	44	58	67	15½	24	30½
Cable	525	28½	45	—	24½	36	—
Cad	650	31½	47	73	13	22½	30
Cmbrd	700	22	39	47	37	47	54½
ICI	750	59	73	82½	14½	24	44
Cmbrd	600	23½	47	59	46½	60	69
Kingfisher	600	49	66	72½	16	28	32½
Cmbrd	650	25	37½	49½	45	52	59½
Land Sec	750	24	40	49½	22½	35	39
Cmbrd	800	13	18½	27½	54½	66½	69½
M & S	420	21½	28	46	9	17	20½
Cmbrd	460	11½	19	27	39½	48½	51½
Nat West	550	52	62½	69	12½	19	26½
Cmbrd	900	22	35	43½	36½	45½	51
Sainsbury	390	28	36	41½	16½	28½	30½
Cmbrd	420	15½	23½	28½	34½	45	49
Smith	700	38	51	63½	17½	26	34
Cmbrd	750	12½	21½	34½	48½	53½	61½
Smith Bch	420	33	45½	56	2½	8½	12½
Cmbrd	460	15½	26	36½	44	54	60½
Storehse	220	16	25½	29½	7	12½	15
Cmbrd	240	9	15	19½	17½	23	25½
Trafalgar	97	14½	19	—	6	9½	—
Cmbrd	100	11	15½	—	11	18½	—
Unilever	1150	72	91	112½	23	44	63½
Cmbrd	1200	47½	67	83½	66½	89	96
Zeneca	900	37½	56½	69½	28	51½	62½
Cmbrd	950	18	35½	49	72	82½	93

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grand Met	460	31	43	51½	6	14	20½
Cmbrd	500	9	21	30	35	43	49½
Ladbroke	200	10½	16½	22	7½	18½	23½
Cmbrd	220	5	9	14½	22½	32½	36½
Ltd Bisc	360	17	26½	31½	8	19½	26
Cmbrd	390	4½	12½	18½	25½	39½	45

January 28, 1994 Tot: 53349 Call: 27598
Put: 25748 FT-SE Call: 7041 Put: 9315
*Underlying security price.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		FT 30 share:	2639.5 (+12.3)
Dow Jones	3943.18 (+16.88)	Brussels:	
S&P Composite	479.01 (+1.96)	General	7740.42 (+2.04)
Tokyo:		Paris: CAC-40	2313.17 (+32.32)
Nikkei Avge	18757.88 (-133.91)	Zurich: SRA Gen	736.90 (+7.20)
Hong Kong:		London:	
Hang Seng	11377.83 (+92.59)	FT A All-Share	1727.51 (+6.52)
Amsterdam:		FT Non Financials	1853.71 (+6.30)
EOE Index	439.78 (+4.07)	FT Gold	



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Safe travel with annual insurance

WEEKEND MONEY

EQUITY WINNERS 28

Your money, your choice, in the market



How to survive rising tax and bills

Consumers are facing the squeeze. Christmas credit card bills need paying and taxes are going up. **Liz Dolan** and **Sara McConnell** have help to offer

With the average family tax bill expected to rise by about £40 a month from April, it makes sense to ensure that tax liabilities are kept to the minimum. A thorough health check is the only answer:

☐ Ensure there are no unclaimed allowances and tax relief relating to the past few years. Back-dated claims are subject to various time limits. For instance, claimants have six years from the end of the relevant tax year to claim allowances, request tax relief on outgoings and set business losses against future profits of the same business. Those wishing to set business losses against other income have just two years in which to do so.

☐ Wives taxed at a higher rate than their husbands should claim the married couple's allowance. If nothing is done, this is allocated to the husband. Application to transfer the allowance, or split it equally between both partners, must be made before April 6.

☐ Where one member of a married couple is in a higher tax bracket than the other, it may be possible to rearrange the couple's investment income so that it is paid to the lower taxpayer.

☐ Over 65s should try and avoid the "income trap" which occurs when their income exceeds the age-related allowance ceiling (this year: £14,200). When this happens, age allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 in extra income. The situation may be eased, or even avoided, by using tax-free investment vehicles such as Peps and Tessas.

☐ Married couples in this position should bear in mind the wife's relatively privileged position. In the case of the husband, the £1-for-£2 reduction is made first from the personal allowance and, when that is exhausted, from the married couple's allowance. In the wife's case, only her personal allowance is affected. This difference should be borne in mind when juggling investment income.

☐ All married couples should ensure that personal allowances are fully exploited. Where one partner has no taxable income, investment income should, if possible, be rerouted in their direction.

☐ Divorcing parents should make maintenance payments directly to their former spouse, not to the children. Under new regulations, maintenance payments made to children do not now qualify for tax relief.

☐ People with company cars should try and do more than 2,500 miles a year on business as this cuts their tax bill by 33 per cent. If they do a lot of driving, they should try and boost the total to more than 18,000, thus cutting the tax bill.

☐ Couples should check that they are apportioning mortgage interest tax relief in the most sensible way.

☐ Savers who pay tax at the 20 per cent rate should reclaim the difference on investment interest where basic rate tax has been deducted before payment. Non-taxpayers should fill in Form R85 which prevents tax being deducted in the first place.

☐ Consider using the tax-free slice of capital gains tax (£5,800 net in 1993-94) by investing part of total investment funds for capital gains rather than income.



LITERARY DIGEST, FEBRUARY 26, 1921

Working out the household bills can be made easier if a plan of action is drawn up and action taken

MORTGAGES

The most obvious way of saving on monthly mortgage costs is to reduce the amount of the loan with a lump-sum payment. Those with spare money on deposit should look at the rate their savings are earning and compare the rate with the one they are paying out on their loan. If they are earning less on their savings than they are paying out, using savings to pay off part of the loan could make sense. Borrowers should keep a £30,000 mortgage going to take advantage of tax relief.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders says 90 per cent of existing borrowers have a variable rate loan. After the latest rate cut, this is costing 7.75 per cent. Tax relief on the first £30,000, at 25 per cent, reduces this to 5.81 per cent net. After April 6 Miras will be restricted to 20 per cent on the first £30,000, raising the rate to 6.2 per cent net.

Savers could be earning as little as half this rate in a building society account. For example, a balance of £5,000 in a Halifax Instant Saver Plus account would earn 4.05 per cent gross, 3.03 per cent net.

Tessa accounts are paying a higher rate to savers than they are paying out in mortgage interest. Savers should make sure they have used up their Tessa allowance before paying off some of the mortgage.

Remortgaging from a variable to a fixed-rate could be another way of saving on mortgage costs. Banque Nationale de Paris and Bank of Ireland have a five-year fixed-rate of 6.75 per cent without requiring borrowers to take insurance. This will save £10 a year per £1,000 of mortgage before tax relief and £8 after.

Borrowers have to work out whether the lower rates outweigh legal costs and arrangement fees. They could also find they have to take out expensive insurance as a condition of the loan.

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild

Paying credit card bills off in full each month is an obvious way to save money. Barclaycard, the largest card issuer, calculates that a holder who takes the average of three months to pay back £450 will make payments totalling £464.74 and thus pay £14.74 for the privilege of borrowing.

Barclaycard charges 1.585 per cent a month, 21.9 per cent a year, to people who do not pay in full. This is fairly typical and interest is calculated from the transaction date, when Barclays processes the purchase, rather than the statement date, which could be several weeks later. Some card issuers charge from the purchase date, several days before the transaction date. Cardholders who cannot afford to pay off the whole amount should pay what they can as quickly as they can, say Barclays. As soon as the payment is received, the holder starts paying interest on the lower amount.

Large bills, which may take several months to pay off out of a current account, could be settled with a cheque from a savings account. The minuscule rates most people are receiving on even quite large savings balances mean that the cost of credit vastly outweighs any advantage of hanging on to extra savings.

Card users should also check what extras come free with their card. Discounts on travel, free insurance if purchases are damaged or lost, and points buying goods, including most recently, cars, can all save money.

There is an estimated £20 billion of savers' money in obsolete accounts, that are closed to new savers and which consequently pay a minimal rate of interest.

For example, Alliance & Leicester's obsolete Ready Money Plus pays 0.5 per cent gross on all balances, while its existing instant access account pays up to 4.6 per cent gross.

Obsolete accounts are almost always instant access so there should be no problem closing one and immediately opening another. Building societies will send details of the rates they are paying on these accounts.

Savers should make sure they have used their full Tessa allowance because these pay interest gross. They are allowed to save a maximum of £9,000 over five years, breaking down into £3,000 in the first year and £1,800 on each of the succeeding anniversaries.

Although the money has to be locked away for five years in order for the tax break to apply, those who need to get at their Tessa investment will still get a better rate than on most other savings accounts. They will get their interest paid net of the Tessa rate, which is higher than the net rate on most other savings accounts.

According to *Moneyfacts*, the best major bank and building society Tessas come from Bristol & West and TSB, both paying 7.25 per cent gross.

Shoppers are faced with a vast array of money-saving opportunities. But what may at first appear to be an absolute bargain can, on closer inspection, turn out to be a pig in a poke.

Warehouse clubs are not for everyone. Shoppers have to bulk buy to achieve the large cost savings. They must also have enough storage space to accommodate mountains of food and household goods. Second, choice is limited. Costco offers only 190 food items, compared with 18,000 in the average superstore. Third, not everyone is eligible for membership, which costs between £17 and £23 a year. Most are traders buying wholesale. The rest must be members of specific employment groups such as solicitors, accountants, local authority officials and people involved in education and medicine. But large savings can be made on single non-food items.

The imposition of VAT on domestic fuel after April has prompted some people to consider paying up to two years' fuel bills in advance. The average British family pays £750 a year for fuel. This will rise by £60 in the first year, when VAT will be charged at 8 per cent and by £131 when the full 17.5 per cent rate comes in the following year. Anyone paying the full £1,500 before March 31 will save themselves £191. The same amount in an instant access building society account would earn about £80 over the same period. All gas and electricity companies are happy to receive early payments, but warn that customers must make their intentions clear to avoid money being refunded. To avoid disappointment, enough time must be allowed for cheques to clear.

At last, SIB starts to bite



LINDSAY COOK
Deputy Business Editor

The Securities and Investments Board is poised to win belated public acclaim. After years of indecision it is about to do the right thing and regulate the investment industry. Within weeks it will ban its first investment salesman.

Who will gain this dubious honour is a closely guarded secret. It seems that six gentlemen of the investment industry are in the frame.

The board, not wanting to get anything wrong after taking almost six years to get to first base, will not say whether the six already know who they are, or if letters of notification that they are about to be banned for life from selling investments are in the post. The alleged wallet-thinners will then have a month to appeal against the decision. If they decide to fight every inch of the way to banishment, it could take six months for a tribunal to be arranged, and if the named people choose to be represented by the likes of George Carman QC, there could be weeks of legal niceties before their right to sell bonds to widows and orphans or otherwise will be established.

If the lawyers for the SIB Six get the better of the board's own representatives we will never know the names of the salesmen that SIB wanted to muzzle.

If the use of Section 59 in this case turns out to be effective, it will have set a valuable precedent for the protection of investors from the downright criminal and those salesmen who are just not up to the job. The latter can then go on to sell double glazing or dieting plans where the shortfall of their products and their glib line of patter is easier for all to see through.

Where investments are concerned, the public has to be sure that their trust that their pension will meet their needs, or that a risk-free investment is exactly that, is not misplaced. Over the last six years industry commentators have watched in horror as some individuals have snaked their way from one scam to another, leaving behind large numbers of victims.

SIB is more aware than most of the losses suffered by investors as it operates the Investors Compensation Scheme and has this week announced that it is increasing its budget on fraud prevention.

My nomination for the man to go down in history as the first to be banned from selling any kind of investments is Robert Miller. He was released from prison last March after serving 21 months of a 6 year sentence for fraud and theft. While sole director of Dunsdale Securities he deceived clients into believing his company was solvent while he spent some £2 million of their money on fast cars and luxury holidays.

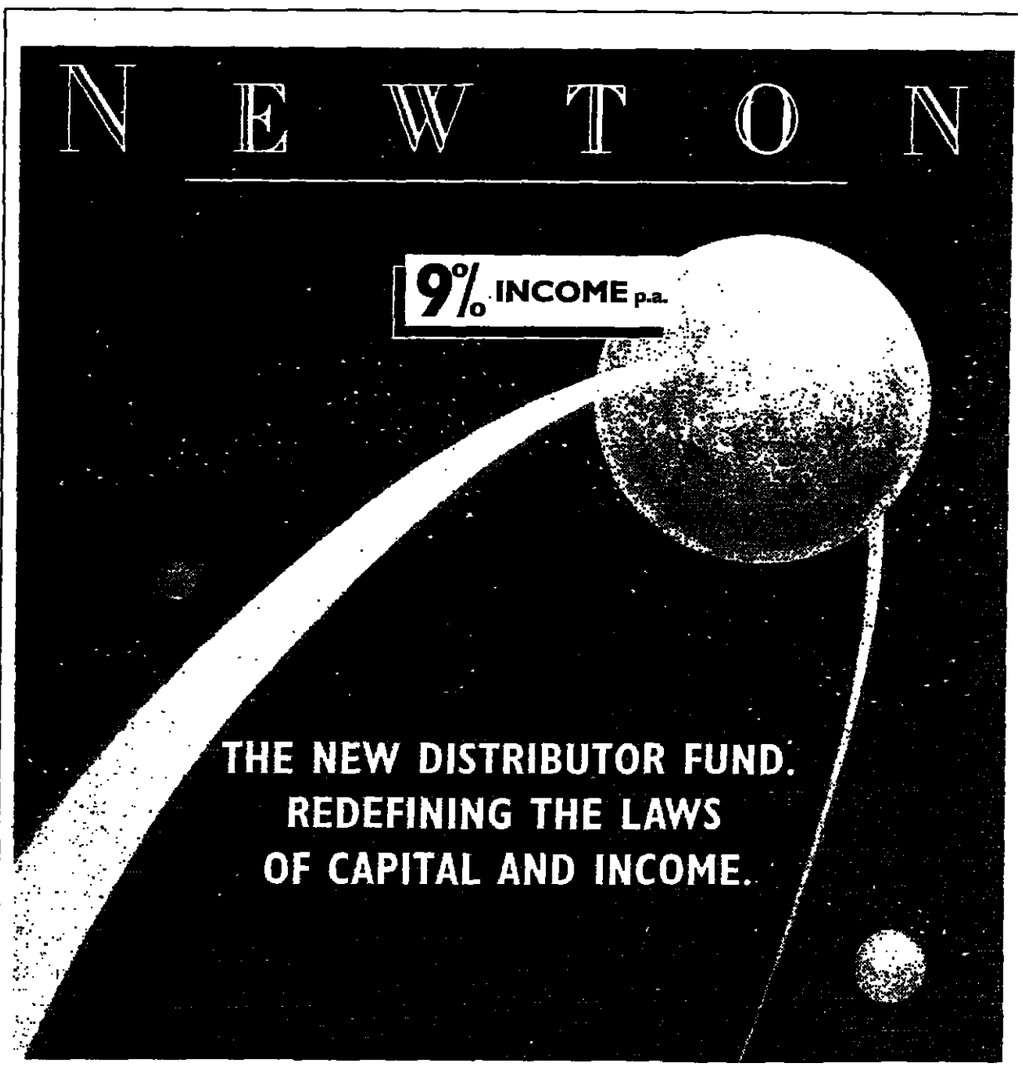
The decision to sentence Roger Levitt to 180 hours community service making wooden toys after he admitted lying to city regulators about the state of his investment group, prompted calls for an enquiry. He is also disqualified from being a director for seven years. Now is the time for SIB to show that it has more teeth than the Serious Fraud Office.

On the cards

Fingerprinting for credit card customers is on the way. Barclaycard plans to use fingerprints in its fight against rising fraud costs. It is not wanting to check against police records for new customers, but plans to use the latest fingerprinting technology to ensure that cards are only used by their cardholders.

No doubt this will reduce the fraud costs, though whether the electronic fingerprinting terminals will cost more than the savings is debatable, and whether ordinary law-abiding customers should be regarded as criminal until proved otherwise is likely to be a hotter issue. Barclaycard say its research shows that this is the measure the public wants. Who it asked, the company does not say.

The credit card companies may suffer the losses, but the customers pay ultimately with credit card rates currently 15 per cent and more above bank base rates. They will also suffer delays and inconvenience if the new age technology fails, and possible embarrassment if their fingerprint is rejected after a heavy gardening session.



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BRIEFINGS

BUILDING society investors looking round for a better return from the stock market are being targeted by Fidelity Investments, which has launched a new personal equity plan. The plan, called Moneybuilder, making it sound comfortingly similar to building society accounts, is a managed fund investing in turn in Fidelity's range of unit trusts. It aims to produce capital growth through investing in a spread of trusts covering Europe, the Far East and international sectors as well as funds investing in recovery stocks and stocks for income.

Mary Blair, Fidelity's director of product development, says: "People want to find an alternative to the building society. The income is about a third of what it was three years ago."

Those who invest before March 11 will get a discount on the normal initial charge of 2 per cent. Fidelity's upfront charges on Peps are lower than some of its competitors because it charges for early withdrawals. Cashing in after one year means a charge of 3 per cent: two years, 2 per cent; three years, 1 per cent. There is no charge after three years.

Fidelity has also launched a Pep for people ten to 15 years away from retirement who want to build up extra money outside their pension fund. The Retirement Income Builder will invest in a new fund, the UK Dividend growth fund. This aims to provide a growing income when investors retire, after having reinvested dividends in the fund while still working.

The Retirement Income Builder Pep has the same charging structure as the Moneybuilder and Fidelity's other Peps, but with no discount on the initial charge. Miss Blair said a Pep could be used to provide extra income in retirement on top of funds built up in a pension fund and in freestanding additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

■ Borrowers taking out a fixed or capped-rate mortgage with the Halifax Building Society after February 1 will be able to take their mortgage with them to a new property instead of having to redeem their loan and start again. Existing borrowers on a fixed rate can also transfer their loan. Borrowers can choose either to transfer the whole of the value of a loan at the fixed rate, topping up if necessary from a range of discounted, variable or fixed rates, or transfer part of their existing fixed rate. Those transferring the whole amount will pay only a transfer fee. Those who transfer part of a fixed or capped-rate loan to a new property pay a transfer fee and part of the repayment fee.

■ Skipton Building Society has a new five-year fixed rate of 6.9 per cent (annual percentage rate 7.1 per cent). There is no fee for securing funds and arranging the mortgage — most lenders charge between £275 and £300. Borrowers have to take buildings and contents insurance with the society and face a penalty of six months' gross interest for early redemption. Maximum advance is £150,000 for first-time buyers and £250,000 for established borrowers.

■ A series of capped-rate mortgages is on offer from Yorkshire Building Society. A capped rate allows borrowers to benefit from a lower rate while being protected from a higher rate. The three rates are 6.1 per cent until January 1996, 6.55 per cent to January 1997 and 6.95 per cent to January 1998. Borrowers can opt instead for a fixed rate of 4.95 per cent until April 1995, 6.2 per cent to January 1997 or 6.75 per cent to January 1998.

■ Nationwide FlexAccount customers with separate cheque-guarantee cards and cash cards will be issued with just one card in future. Customers will be able to choose their own personal identification number (PIN). Customers with only a cash card will be issued with a new card personalised with their names for greater security.

■ Holders of Leeds Permanent Building Society Visa cards who spent more than £1,500 on their cards last year will get their annual £12 fee back in February. Customers who spend £1,500 or more in the next 12 months will also get their fee refunded. Leeds has cut the cost of borrowing for cardholders who do not pay off in full from 24.6 per cent to 19.9 per cent on February 1.

■ The latest private-health insurer to move into dental care is Norwich Union. Its Dental Care plan will start from £6 to £12 per month, depending on the level of cover required. Basic cover includes consultations, x-rays and scaling, while root canal fillings and gum disease treatment come under plan 3. Dentures are excluded.



JULIAN HERBERT

Shula Rich, who is co-ordinating the efforts of the rebel leaseholders, is waiting to hear whether their case will go to a full hearing

Repairs cost residents £1.5m

Sara McConnell sees how residents of a block of flats are trying to clear up confusion over their leases

A dozen, mostly elderly leaseholders who are resisting demands of up to £15,000 each for repairs to their crumbling 1960s block of flats are planning to defend themselves against Mars Security, the block's freeholder, which has served writs on them for non-payment. They claim that Mars Security has failed to maintain the building properly and has, therefore, broken the covenants set out in the lease.

Mars Security, trustee of the Mars pension fund says that the leaseholders in the block in Hove, East Sussex, are obliged to pay under the terms of their leases and has sent bills for repairs totalling £1.5 million. Many of the 104 leaseholders in the block have already yielded to demands for payment. The rest will be forced to do so, if they lose their case. Mars has sent a total of about 40 writs to those refusing to pay. Some have had several writs at different times.

The rebel leaseholders, co-ordinated by Shula Rich, secretary of the block's Residents' Association, are waiting to hear if their case will go to a full hearing and have contributed £1,000 each to a legal costs fund.

At the end of last year, Mars took three leaseholders to court in a "friendly" action in an attempt to establish the terms of the leases. Some of the 104 leases said freeholders had a duty to carry out repairs necessary to maintain the building and charge this to leaseholders, while others said that freeholders could ask lessees to repair and, where necessary, to replace. Mars paid the two leaseholders' legal costs of up to £10,000. The court ordered that the three leaseholders were liable for the service charges Mars was demanding under their leases. However, the judge made it plain that the order only referred to the two leaseholders and was not binding on any other tenants in the block. The court did not make a reasoned judgment on the meaning of the leases, as Mars was seeking. Mars had hoped such a judgment would have been a "strong persuasive force" on the other leaseholders.

The leaseholders maintain that a report they commissioned at the end of last year from the Morton Partnership, a firm of structural engineers, backs up their claim that the freeholders have neglected the block. The leaseholders are planning to use the report as part of their defence against Mars' legal action. Brian Morton, a consultant to the Morton Partnership, concluded in the report that external works to the concrete "envelope" of the building "should have been carried out some years ago at considerably reduced costs because the building would not have been in such poor condition if proper maintenance had been carried out". He adds: "By lack of maintenance, the value of the individual properties has been reduced dramatically. This would not have occurred if proper planned maintenance had been employed and has resulted in considerable distress to the leaseholders of the building."

Since 1992, when the scale of the works finally emerged, leaseholders needing to sell claim they have been forced to accept knockdown prices. Estate agents confirm this. Fox & Sons in Hove, which has various flats in the block for sale said: "The maintenance fees are quite expensive. As soon as people find out about the cost of the works they are put off." Some of the flats have almost halved in value, mainly because of the cost of the works, the agent said.

> "I believe that a lot of leaseholders don't realise the commitment of entering into a lease"

Colour photographs included in the report show concrete balconies coming away from the wall, cracked and broken concrete window sills and mosaic coverings and rusting metal fitments. A brochure advertising the flats for sale when they were first built in 1963 described them as "magnificently equipped luxury flats, in one of the finest positions on the south coast, fitted with every possible amenity".

Bill Harrison, of Mars Security, said the freeholder only realised the building had structural problems after damage during the storms of 1987. A lot of the necessary repairs had been hidden behind brickwork, which also disguised faults in the building's original construction. In real terms, it was also significantly cheaper to leaseholders to carry out works now than it had been at the height of the property boom in the late 1980s.

Mr Morton rejected Mars' claim that the works had come to light only in 1987, saying that correspondence in his possession shows leaseholders' long-term concern with poor maintenance and management services.

Mr Harrison said Mr Morton's report was "wholly inadequate" and that further details had been requested. He added: "The majority of lessees support Mars Security's actions and around 90 per cent of lessees are contributing into the reserve fund, excluding those for whom special arrangements are being made." Unlike some other freeholders, Mars has paid the builders and contractors before recouping the money from the lessees, said Mr Harrison.

"I believe that a lot of leaseholders don't realise the commitment of entering into a lease. They somehow feel that there will magically be someone to come along and fix the building. If they bought a freehold house and it needed a new roof after 20 years, they would expect to pay for it themselves. If there is anything to be learnt from this, the leaseholders have to be much clearer what they are taking on".

Miss Rich said: "Freeholders, when they purchase a freehold, must also realise the responsibilities that they are taking on".

Yvonne Gibb, chair of the Brighton and Hove Tenants Association said many leaseholders in the area were having "horrific problems" with their freeholders.

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Annual cover can pay

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THE SCHR UK G INVES T R

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Families can cut holiday costs with annual travel insurance, says **Rose Wild**

Annual cover can pay



Annual policies take in family holidays as well as business travel and day trips

Nearly four in every ten overseas travellers risk doing so without travel insurance, according to a new survey. Home and Overseas, the largest travel insurer, reports that 43 per cent of men and 34 per cent of women questioned had travelled without insurance in the past, and that 22 per cent of travellers under 36 regularly travelled without insurance.

The more prudent regular travellers are increasingly saving themselves the trouble of shopping around for cover each time they go away by insuring themselves and their families for a year at a time. Annual insurance is the fastest expanding area of the travel market, and insurers are offering increasingly competitive rates.

Typically, an annual travel policy offers cover for an unlimited number of trips during the year, but with an overall maximum of days per year, which can vary from 90 to 180. There is likely to be a stipulation that individual trips should not exceed between 30 and 60 days. Winter sport coverage is often limited to 17 days, or excluded entirely. Policyholders should always check the small print for exclusions and special conditions.

The policies divide between those designed for the single traveller, and those that specifically target families. First Direct launched the first family-based policy two years ago and its popularity has persuaded competitors to move in the same direction. Most family policies cover two adults and two children, with additional premiums for extra children.

A spokesman for Home & Overseas said that the policies are intended for travel *as* a family, and would not cover children travelling on their own. The extent of cover and the sums insured are generally much the same as for short term policies. There is likely to be an additional premium for anyone over 60 or 65.

Annual travel insurance compares favourably with the price of single journey cover, when a family of four can pay £100 to cover a two week holiday in Europe.

The holiday price war between high street travel agents has resulted in attractive sounding discounts on package holidays. But tour operators have in many cases been covering the costs of those discounts with commissions of as much as 60 per cent on the insurance they sell with the holiday.

Consumer bodies have criticised the growing tendency among tour operators to suggest the traveller must buy their policies; since it is almost always possible to save costs by shopping around.

Because of this need to load insurance prices, Home & Overseas, which insures 30-35 per cent of the leisure travel market, says most of its annual travel business is done through the big financial organisations.

Barclays' "Multi-trip" cover costs a single adult £97.50 per year, with a spouse and two children charged at £28.50 extra. This means a family of four will be covered for £126.00. National Westminster allows for up to three children who live and travel with their parents, on its family policy at £129.

Bradford & Bingley has an annual leisure policy at £75 and £29.50 per child. Its business cover has a single adult rate of £99.50 with a family rate extension for a spouse and two children of £57.50. B & B has a discount of 20 per cent if personal possessions are already covered under a household policy. Cover is available from branches and a freephone telephone line.

Abbey National has a family policy for £125 per annum which covers two adults and up to three children who are under 18 and living at home.

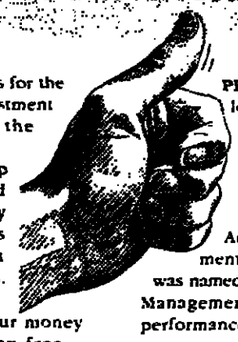
First Direct offers its customers a family rate, encompassing unlimited numbers of children, of £109. Since trips can be of up to 91 days' duration, it is used by people who live in Europe and travel to the UK a few times a year.

This week General Accident announced its new annual travel policy offering a family rate for two adults and two children of £90 for Europe and £152 worldwide. This is available through its branches and through insurance brokers.

Thomas Cook charges £270 for a family of four for worldwide cover. The policy is sold through all its branches.

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THE TIMES

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* Source: Micropal offer to bid net income reinvested from launch 1.3.88 to 24.1.94.

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* Basic net rate to 1972 - source: BZW. Thereafter, higher net rate - source: Micropal. Figures are to 31st December and are based on total return, net income reinvested. †Calculation by Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, using mid-market prices, net income reinvested, at 31st December, includes historical 3.5% notional expenses. Current charges are 0.2% commission excluding 0.5% Government stamp duty (minimum 50p).

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High Income Fund	Feb '92	24.6%†	+24.6%*
European Opportunities	Sept '89	18.8%	+135.1%
UK Growth	June '85	17.1%	+128.8%
European Income	Feb '87	12.1%	+137.6%
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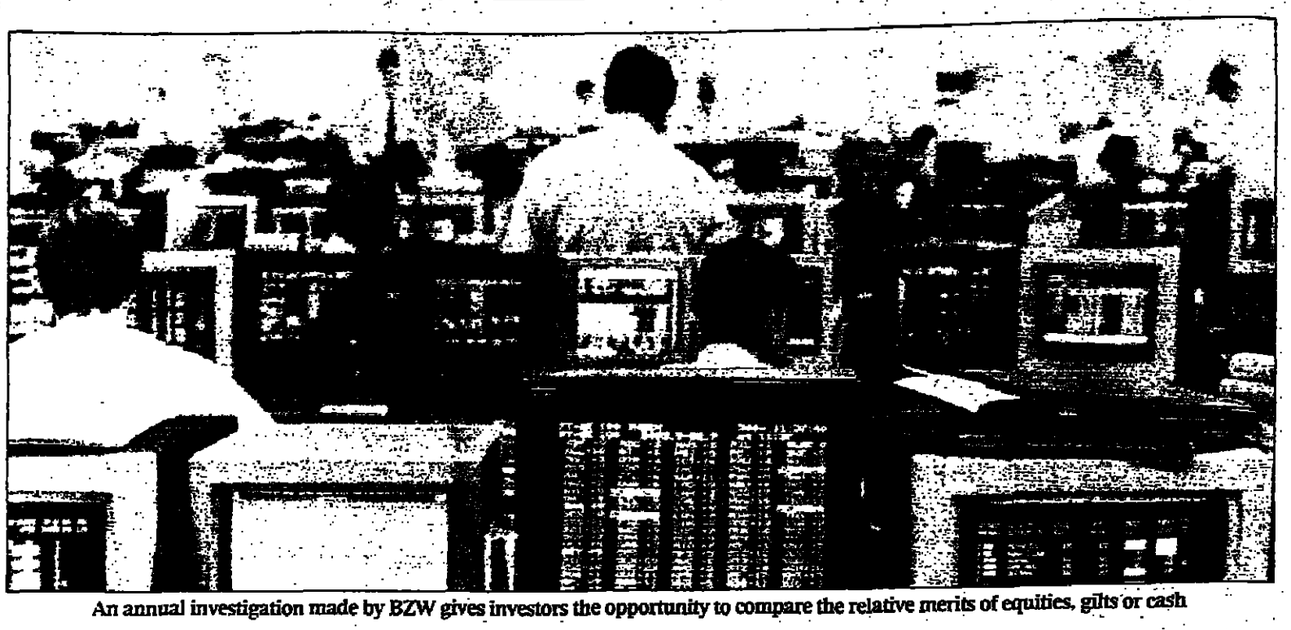
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Your money, your choice. **Margaret Dibben** on a report that compares the options



An annual investigation made by BZW gives investors the opportunity to compare the relative merits of equities, gilts or cash

Equities long-term winners

Investors cannot expect the same remarkable returns from UK shares over the next few years as they have enjoyed in recent times, says Michael Hughes, managing director of BZW's global economics and strategy division.

In his annual investigation into the comparative merits of shares, gilts or cash, he reports: "Had you been in cash, bonds or equities in the last ten years, the returns have been quite exceptional."

Investors in equities have earned more than 10 per cent a year in real terms. Even the returns from substantial cash deposits have been worthwhile because, although interest rates are down, inflation is even lower. Mr Hughes says: "The real return after inflation has been over 5 per cent in each of the last four years, and you have to go back to the Thirties to get those sort of returns from cash."

Historically, shares outperform gilts, and BZW's tables confirm that equities comfortably maintain their reputation for beating other investments hands down over the long term. Between 1918 and 1993, the real return from equities has been 7.9 per cent a year; from gilts it was 2 per cent. Cash earned only 1.4 per cent.

But Mr Hughes says: "In the last five years, the returns from gilts and equities have been very close and in the calendar year 1993, gilts did slightly better. The total return from equity growth, including dividends and stripping out inflation, was 25 per cent against 26.4 per cent from long-dated gilts."

He expects the more usual pattern to re-emerge: "I don't think they are going to be so close together in the next five years. You are not likely to get the same sort of returns from gilts as you had in the last five years, whereas I do think there is more headway on equities." He believes a return for the next three or four years of about 10 per cent is realistic.

The dividend will form a larger proportion of this return than it has recently. He says: "We are at the low end of the dividend cycle and for the next two or three years real dividend growth should actually be higher than its long-term average. In the very long term, real dividend growth has been about 2 per cent a year, but in the next four or five years I would expect it to be at least twice that."

Even for higher-rate taxpayers, the returns are still good. Over the past 75 years, a high rate taxpayer has earned a real return of 3.8 per cent from shares when dividends are reinvested. This rises to 4.1 per cent if the Second World War years are excluded. Since the Second World War, the return has been 2.5 per cent. These figures take account of both inflation and the highest rate of income tax payable over the years on dividends.

In the past five years, the real return from equities to a higher-rate taxpayer has averaged 10 per cent a year, but Mr Hughes expects that to revert to 3.8 per cent over the next few years. Even if shares fail to produce the same dramatic returns as they have done recently, the tax breaks available give them an extra attraction.

Most non-taxpaying shareholders are pension schemes but, increasingly, money is building up tax-free in Peps. "The amount of equity income which is now received gross is the highest ever and rising quite substantially."

Mr Hughes concludes: "The background condition for equities is still favourable, and it is increasingly more favourable for equities than it is for gilts."

Solicitors take on stockbrokers

The Association of Solicitor Investment Managers (ASIM), a new trade association for solicitors who specialise in giving financial advice, has published its first directory of members (Liz Dolan writes).

ASIM claims its members are qualified to give the level of service normally available from a stockbroker or the trustee department of a bank. Not all stockbrokers would be happy with this claim, but they would be pushed to compete with the added advantage offered by solicitors of being subject to Law Society regulations. These are much tougher than those imposed by financial regulatory bodies.

For instance, clients of Law Society members can obtain unlimited compensation for fraud or up to £1 million for negligence. In addition, all commission paid on the sale of financial products has to be disclosed in full. This would normally be used to pay fees, so there is not necessarily a financial gain, but at least nothing is concealed from clients.

The Securities and Investments Board will soon require financial advisers to offer some form of commission disclosure, but the extent of disclosure is as yet unclear.

ASIM has 20 full members so far, and three associate members. Full members must have at least one partner who is a member of the Securities Institute (the stockbrokers' trade association) or has an equivalent qualification. Associates do not meet this requirement, but will have staff with at least five years' experience in investment advice.

An additional 13 firms are described as "candidates", which means partners are obtaining the necessary qualifications. More than 100 other firms have requested membership details, ASIM says.

All but one of the members is regulated by the Law Society. The exception, Thesis, is the investment subsidiary of a firm of solicitors and is regulated separately by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Association. However David Lough, ASIM chairman, says clients still have the same compensation rights as those of other members through the company's parent firm.

Five of the member firms became share shops during last summer's BT3 sell-off.

All solicitors who manage clients' financial affairs will soon have to obtain an Investment Advisory Certificate as part of the general move by the financial services industry to improve training and competence levels.

The Law Society of England and Wales says that fewer than 900 of its 9,500 members conduct "discrete investment business". A "handful" are regulated by Fimbra.

The directory is free from: ASIM, Baldocks, Chiddingstone Causeway, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8JX.

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US flies into turbulence

A correction to the long bull market is inevitable; the question is when it will come, **Robert Miller** writes

The seemingly unstoppable rise in the US stock market, the world's biggest, has left few fund managers willing to predict the precise point at which a correction will take place. That it will happen seems certain. But the best consensus on the timing is "sometime" this year. That is of little help to UK investors who want to include American shares in their portfolios but are unsure of when or how much to invest.

The more or less steady rise in the US stock market has been helped by low inflation and low interest rates and a belief that the economy has emerged from recession, not just in statistical terms but also in improving company profits and order books.

There has also been a huge outflow of savings from low-interest deposit accounts into US mutual funds — the equivalent of UK unit trusts — creating even greater demand for shares in general. So large are the sums involved that US fund managers have taken the unprecedented step of investing money in emerging markets such as those of South-East Asia.

This has boosted the performance of these markets. In the third quarter of 1993, US investors bought foreign shares and bonds worth more than $46 billion, a world record.

But when a market becomes as highly valued as America's, it takes only one event or news item to trigger a downward correction. The past two weeks have seen an earthquake, floods and a particularly vicious freeze. On the political front, a special investigator is examining the involvement of the President and Mrs Clinton in the so-called Whitewatergate affair. Any one of these factors could alarm investors. Yet the average daily volume of shares traded on the New York Stock Exchange so far this year has exceeded 300 million, compared with last year's daily average of 265 million.

On the investment merits of the US market, and the weight it should have in the portfolios of UK investors, Keith Jecks, managing director of Kleinwort Benson's private banking arm in London, said: "The US stock market accounts for just under 40 per cent of the world's stock market capitalisation. That is 50 per cent more than Japan's.

"We advise most clients, and certainly those with portfolios of less than £500,000, to invest in the US market through a well-diversified UK-authorised unit or investment trust listed under the North American category."

There are currently 125 such unit trusts, but only six investment trusts.

The latest Micropal statistics on North America show that over the past year, the top places have been dominated by funds that invest in smaller companies. But Mr Jecks said: "Over the longer term, the trusts which invest in the larger, more established companies, such as those listed on the Standard & Poor's 500 index, should provide more consistent returns."

North American funds are not just about the US. Canada should not be overlooked. Smith & Williamson's top-performing Canadian unit trust shows a 43 per cent gain, against a sector average of just under 12 per cent over the past year.

But Peter Evans Lombe, Smith & Williamson's fund manager, admits: "We could just as easily be in the bottom ten. Most North American funds do not invest in the Canadian stock market, because it is dwarfed by big brother. Yet without a qualm, many investors will ignore Canada and place quite a large proportion of their portfolios into smaller, and probably less mature and liquid markets such as Hong Kong and Australia."

On profit prospects, John Haynes, one of four New York-based fund managers of Fleming's £300 million American investment trust, says: "The larger companies should see profit increases of between 10 and 12 per cent this year."

Walter Downey, who manages Fidelity's US equity income fund — a UK authorised unit trust — from Boston believes President Clinton's problems have been overestimated. He says: "The stock market as an institution does not give a hoot about the special investigation unless it threatens the President's very survival."

One US commentator who believes a stock market correction is overdue is George Herbert Walker III, chairman of Stifel Nicolaus, a broking and investment firm based in St Louis. "Over three years, the stock market has consistently moved up," he says. "There has never been a period of such growth without a serious correction. When it comes, the market will fall by between 10 and 15 per cent. Even so, I think British investors should have an exposure to the US. The rate of growth may slow, but there is now a general feeling that the economy has emerged from the doldrums."



President Clinton's troubles could alarm investors — but experts say this is unlikely

NORTH AMERICA SECTOR

UK UNIT TRUSTS IN SECTOR

End date / Start date	24.01.94 / 01.01.93
1 S & W Canadian	143.19
2 Prolific Amer Opps	139.38
3 Gartmore Amer Emrgng	137.97
4 Britannia Ld Amer Gth	132.97
5 Hypo F&C Us Smllr Cos	132.16
125 Trusts in sector - avg	111.65

Performances show the value of £100 invested on an Offer to Bid basis with net income reinvested

UK INVESTMENT TRUSTS IN SECTOR

End date / Start date	24.01.94 / 01.01.93
1 N Atlantic Smllr Cos	221.19
2 Govett Amer Smllr Cos	142.28
3 Leveraged Opportunity	130.21
4 Fleming American	126.95
5 American	125.99
6 US Smaller Companies	118.10
6 Trusts in sector — average	144.12

Performances show the value of £100 on a Mid-market to Mid-market basis with net income reinvested

Source: Micropal

Phone line to explain unit trusts

From February, members of the public will have access to a 24-hour telephone line giving information on unit trusts and investment trusts. The phone line is one of the initiatives announced by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) this week as part of a proposed package of measures to raise public awareness of the sector.

Unit trusts had a record year in 1993. Sales of £9.1 billion took the value of funds up by 49 per cent to £95.5 billion. But outside the small sector of the adult population, 4 per cent, that invests in unit trusts, there is remarkably little understanding of what they are, and almost as little interest, according to a survey from NOP, published today. While 80 per cent of non unit trust investors said they were aware unit trusts existed, only a third knew what they were.

Autif is only too conscious of the problem, which will be exacerbated as the current investment boom steadies. A customer base needs to be attracted from outside ABC1 over-35-year-olds based in the South East.

The NOP survey revealed that only 2 per cent of those questioned acquired their unit trusts through a building society. Peps did better in that sector with 9 per cent, and Autif is optimistic that, through feeding their customers into Peps, the banks and building societies will bring in more new investors. The industry wants to present unit trusts as flexible savings vehicles that can be geared towards saving for special needs, such as school fees.

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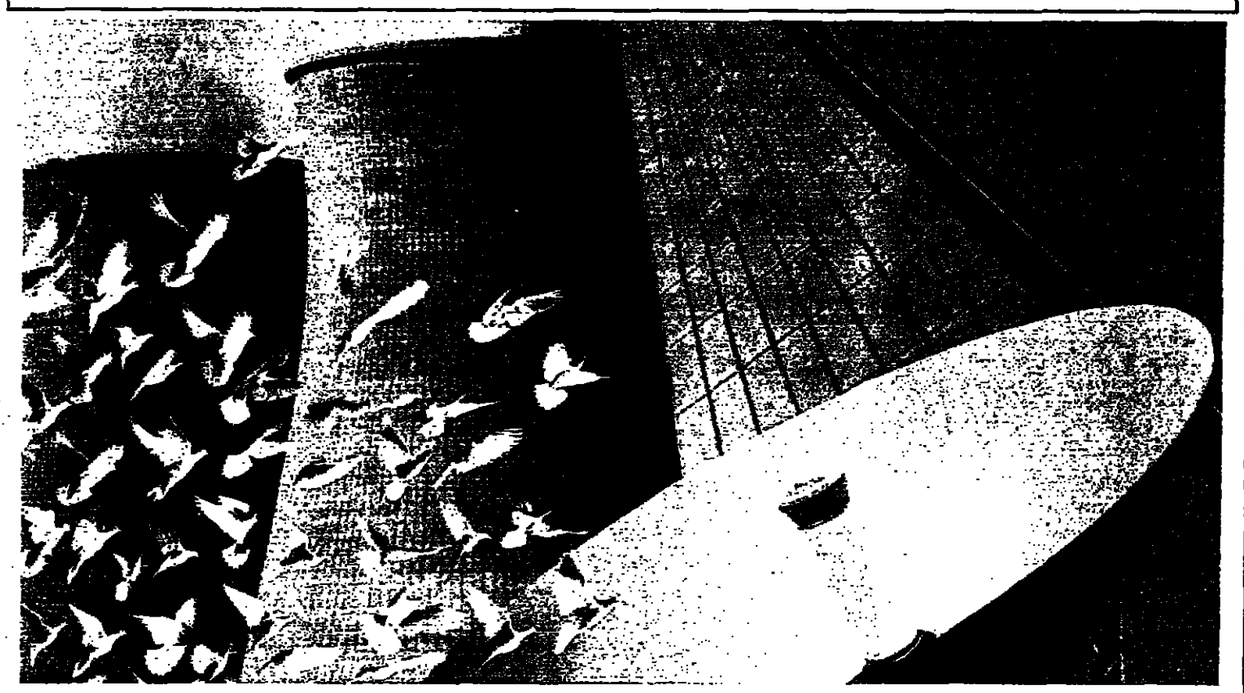
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Help to buy a home

Jill Insley looks at a shared ownership scheme which puts newcomers on the property ladder

ALAN WELLER



Man of property: Werner Jazdziewski with his daughter Caroline and son Adam

Although home ownership is cheaper than it has been for many years, it is still beyond many people's resources. But the young and less well-off could find a way on to the housing ladder through shared ownership under one of the schemes run by housing associations.

The choice of homes under shared ownership was originally restricted to properties on the associations' own housing developments. But a growing number are prepared to consider taking a share in any suitable property chosen by a prospective purchaser. This is becoming known as Diyso — do-it-yourself shared ownership.

Werner Jazdziewski, an advertising salesman, is waiting to complete the purchase of his first home through a Diyso scheme. He is buying 40 per cent of a three bedroom house in Bromley, south London; Tower Housing Association will own the remaining 60 per cent.

Mr Jazdziewski, his wife and two children are council tenants, but expect to be able to move into their own home within a few weeks. "You are buying through shared ownership because you don't have enough money to buy a house yourself. You only have enough money to have one shot at the target. If you miss, your money is gone," he says.

"Diyso is a lot of work. You have to put your whole heart into it, otherwise you will fail. You have to do your homework."

Although the householder has to pay rent on the part of his home owned by the housing association, this is subsidised by the Government. There are 2,300 housing associations registered with the controlling body, the Housing Corporation. About 200 of these offer shared ownership.

Hale & Associates works with more than ten housing associations and claims to help 2,500 people find mortgages for shared homes each year. Derek Hale, a former Diyso owner himself, believes the Government now favours Diyso as a method of encouraging people into home ownership and says that in spite of spending cuts more money appears to be going to the scheme.

Each housing association has its own criteria for accepting an application for shared ownership. The highest priority goes to the homeless. All housing associations require the applicant to have sufficient income to pay the mortgage and rent each month.

Most housing associations prefer the shared owners to buy a house rather than a flat. The lease is simpler to organise and the property will be easier to sell. Tonybee Housing Association allows a shared ownership buyer to spend up to £102,100 in most London boroughs on a home with more than two bedrooms. In the commuter belt towns of Sevenoaks, Guildford or Woking the limit is about £79,200. All houses that require repairs costing £2,000 or more are rejected.

After a year, shared owners can increase their stake in their home by a process called "staircasing". If the owner buys out the association completely, he will be granted a new lease or, in the case of a house, the freehold.

Householders freed from negative equity

Hundreds of thousands of families were released from the negative equity trap in the final three months of last year, as house prices started to rise and unemployment started to fall. The Woolwich Building Society said this week that the number of people with mortgages higher than the value of their home has fallen by 400,000 to 1.2 million.

The South East of England, which was worst affected by house price falls, now has 130,000 borrowers — a 4 per cent reduction to 13 per cent — with negative equity.

Across Britain, the amount of money tied up in homes with negative equity fell from £11 billion at the end of 1992 to £8.5 billion at the end of 1993. The Woolwich estimates that the average negative equity is £7,000, but in the South East the average value is £10,000 while in Yorkshire and Humberside it is £1,500.

The diminishing fear of negative equity is one factor encouraging buyers into the market, housing analysts believe. Another is affordability. TSB's affordability index for January 1994 shows that a typical first-time buyer needs to spend only 26 per cent of his take-home pay on the mortgage. This compares with 67 per cent in the winter of 1990.

First-time buyers now need £80 a month less than a year ago to cover a mortgage. Then, payments on a £47,400 home were £325 a month. Now a typical first-time buyer's property costs £49,300 but payments are £245.

The revival in the housing market is also helping people facing financial difficulties to sell and trade their way down out of trouble; the Council of Mortgage Lenders said this week. The number of properties repossessed fell by 10,000 in 1993 compared with 1992, with 26,760 homes seized in the second half of 1993.

SARA MCCONNELL

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lmark Square, London E14 9XS 071 538 8800				
Balanced	464.40	491.50	+ 3.80	...
UK Equity	611.30	636.30	+ 9.90	...
Property	423.40	448.10	- 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	339.80	359.60	- 0.10	...
Money	244.70	259.00	+ 0.20	...
International	361.70	382.80	+ 0.80	...
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE				
2-12 Commonwealth Road, London N19 0LD				
0800 018575				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	17.59	18.52	- 0.02	...
Bear	20.32	21.39	- 0.23	...
Owl	20.95	22.06	- 0.25	...
Bull	14.62	14.92	- 0.03	...
Stag	20.36	21.33	...	...
Gilt Edged	19.65	19.65	- 0.23	...
Deposit	14.96	15.46	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	23.59	24.84	- 0.02	...
Bear	27.60	29.06	- 0.35	...
Owl	28.54	30.05	- 0.39	...
Bull	21.41	25.70	- 0.04	...
Stag	25.40	26.84	- 0.01	...
Gilt Edged	24.31	24.31	- 0.25	...
Deposit	19.74	19.74	- 0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
UK Equity Fund	614.51	614.52	- 1.43	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	369.82	389.29	- 0.95	...
N Amer Equity	204.65	210.16	- 1.29	...
Far East Equity	274.58	289.62	+ 10.13	...
Fixed	308.16	324.38	- 1.72	...
Cash Deposit	199.51	210.02	- 0.17	...
Property	149.29	157.15	- 1.41	...
Special Opp	399.02	418.97	- 1.16	...
Managed	325.45	342.58	- 1.14	...
Index-Linked Fd	200.59	211.15	- 1.99	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Heddesheimer Road, Bournemouth BH8 9AL				
0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	272.90	287.30	+ 0.00	...
-do- Acc	499.30	525.60	+ 10.90	...
Equity Fd Inc	184.70	194.50	- 1.30	...
-do- Acc	239.70	252.40	- 1.70	...
Selective Fd	501.10	527.50	- 0.30	...
Money Fd	267.10	281.50	+ 0.10	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	384.10	404.60	+ 0.50	...
Equity Ser 4	226.00	237.90	- 1.10	...
Man Ser 4	606.10	732.70	- 1.60	...
Cons Ser 4	330.90	337.80	...	...
Money Ser 4	330.90	337.50	...	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	361.60	380.70	- 3.40	...
American Ser 4	519.90	547.20	- 1.60	...
High Inc Ser 4	202.50	198.70	- 7.00	...
Internat Inv Ser 4	230.60	232.30	- 1.00	...
Japan Ser 4	169.90	168.40	- 2.60	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
0707 42341				
Equity Fd Acc	1680.3	1737.1	- 14.90	...
European Fd Acc	375.50	398.20	+ 8.77	...
Fixed Int Acc	558.40	587.40	+ 5.00	...
Gtd Money Acc	335.30	342.40	- 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	608.90	640.90	- 1.50	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	330.80	348.20	- 1.80	...
Japan Fund	361.10	395.80	- 3.50	...
N American Acc	328.30	345.50	+ 0.30	...
Prop Fd Acc	416.00	437.90	+ 1.60	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1094.9	1152.4	+ 2.20	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
0793 514554				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	362.20	381.30	+ 0.20	...
Equity Acc	1479.0	1556.9	+ 8.50	...
Property Acc	522.90	550.00	+ 3.70	...
Far East Acc	748.70	787.10	+ 1.10	...
Managed Capital	965.50	995.30	- 3.30	...
-do- Acc	1138.9	1198.9	- 6.00	...
Overseas Acc	1006.8	1059.8	- 14.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	502.80	529.30	+ 2.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	755.00	794.80	+ 1.40	...
Amer Man Acc	322.30	339.20	+ 0.80	...
Amer Prop Acc	115.20	121.30	...	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 5	149.90	157.70	+ 0.10	...
Balanced Ser 5	718.20	755.90	+ 0.05	...
Opportunity Ser 5	163.90	172.50	+ 0.40	...
Distribution Ser 5	110.20	116.00	+ 0.01	...
UK Equities Ser 5	1004.7	1057.5	+ 4.60	...
Higher Inc Ser 5	1086.8	1144.0	+ 6.00	...
North Amer Ser 5	439.40	462.50	+ 9.80	...
Far East Ser 5	569.40	599.30	+ 1.00	...
Europe Ser 5	369.60	389.00	+12.80	...
Intnl Ser 5	596.10	595.80	+12.80	...
Property Ser 5	524.40	552.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 5	429.40	451.90	+ 4.10	...
Ind-Linkd Ser 55	189.70	199.60	+ 1.00	...
Gteed Dep Ser 5	288.80	304.00	...	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB				
081 534 5944				
Equity Acc	882.40	928.90	- 9.70	...
-do- Initial	600.20	631.80	- 6.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	405.10	426.40	+ 2.30	...
-do- Initial	276.00	290.70	+ 2.40	...
International Acc	416.20	438.20	+ 3.20	...
-do- Initial	283.80	298.80	+ 1.40	...
Managed Acc	543.40	572.10	+ 2.50	...
-do- Initial	371.80	391.40	+ 2.90	...
Money Acc	290.20	298.20	+ 0.10	...
Property Acc	288.50	295.30	+ 0.20	...
-do- Initial	193.60	200.70	...	...
America Acc	292.20	307.60	+ 0.60	...
Australia Acc	237.60	250.10	+ 3.10	...
Financial Acc	357.90	376.80	- 0.30	...
500 Accum	470.50	495.30	+ 1.60	...
Japan Gwth Acc	346.00	364.30	- 0.60	...
Income Acc	580.90	574.90	+ 7.20	...
Leisure Acc	247.00	260.10	+ 3.50	...
Special Sits Acc	351.10	364.40	+ 2.10	...
Unit Trust Acc	161.00	169.50	+ 1.40	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	831.70	831.70	- 2.56	...
Income Fund	796.00	837.90	- 6.09	...
Extra Income	727.79	766.10	- 5.27	...
Worldwide Gth	529.32	557.39	- 0.46	...
Ballanced Fund	688.02	724.24	- 7.76	...
Smllr Cos Recov	705.73	742.88	+ 4.18	...
N Amer & Genrl	387.49	407.89	- 1.31	...
Pacific Basin	498.67	524.92	- 5.14	...
German Growth	226.99	238.83	- 0.21	...
Japan Growth	176.92	186.24	+ 0.62	...
The UK Gth Fd	216.38	229.88	- 1.87	...
Cont Euro Gth	131.09	137.94	- 0.20	...
Property Fund	381.19	401.26	- 2.48	...
Fixed Interest	330.54	347.94	- 2.90	...
Cash Fund	275.96	290.49	+ 0.16	...
Managed Inv	504.34	530.89	- 1.86	...
Nth Amer Recov	256.68	270.19	- 0.13	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	490.38	516.19	- 0.58	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire				
0475 396800				
Measured Perf	172.90	182.00	+ 0.70	...
Performance Plus	174.40	184.50	+ 3.60	...
With Profit Perf	166.10	175.70	+ 0.10	...
UK Opportunity	190.30	201.30	+ 2.80	...
Euro Opportunity	227.10	240.30	+ 5.20	...
North Amer Opp	171.90	181.90	+ 0.90	...
Far East Opp	212.40	224.70	+ 3.90	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	141.50	149.90	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	166.90	176.20	...	...
Fixed Int	197.70	209.20	+ 1.00	...
Cash	152.90	161.80	...	...
Overseas	201.90	212.60	+ 4.50	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
0707 51122				
Equity Growth	228.60			
Managed	340.00	358.00	- 0.30	...
Property	222.70	234.40	- 0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	258.30	272.00	- 2.00	...
Equity	353.20	445.50	- 0.60	...
Cash	212.40	223.60	+ 0.10	...
Cliffe Euro Mgd	375.50	395.40	- 0.90	...
Cliffe Intl Fd	361.20	380.20	+ 1.00	...
For Cannon see Lincoln National				
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Surrey House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NL 0908 606101				
Property Fund	181.20	190.80	...	...
Managed Fund	635.50	669.00	- 5.70	...
Equity Fund	361.90	381.00	- 4.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	299.10	314.90	- 0.80	...
Ruby	171.90	181.00	- 0.40	...
Emerald	149.80	157.70	- 0.60	...
Equity	241.20	254.00	- 1.20	...
Property	214.80	225.50	- 1.70	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	221.60	233.30	- 1.90	...
Indexed Sec	175.40	184.70	- 0.40	...
Cash	152.40	142.50	- 0.10	...
Nth American	220.10	231.70	+ 0.80	...
Far East	353.30	372.10	- 2.10	...
International	237.90	250.40	- 0.60	...
Special Sits	346.40	364.60	- 1.10	...
Intl Income	306.90	323.10	+ 0.20	...
American Inc	295.30	309.60	- 1.20	...
European	313.10	329.60	+ 4.20	...
Japanese	134.50	141.60	- 1.60	...
SE Asia	403.20	424.50	+ 2.60	...
With Profits Reg	159.10	167.50	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	155.10	163.30	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	333.40	351.50	- 0.70	...
Equity	401.50	422.60	- 1.40	...
Property	340.00	333.00	- 1.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	273.00	287.40	- 3.20	...
Index Linked	187.10	197.00	- 1.00	...
Cash	241.30	254.00	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	272.50	286.90	- 1.50	...
Far East Acc	321.80	339.00	- 1.50	...
International Acc	305.80	321.70	+ 1.80	...
Special Sits	496.20	522.40	+ 0.20	...
European Fnd	442.00	465.30	+ 8.90	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YS. 0634 890 000				
(Units)-Rev	4234.49			...
-do- Pacemaker	1327.01			...
-do- Cash	194.19	209.63	+ 0.11	...
-do- Equity	968.71	1039.64	+ 5.99	...
-do- Fxd Int	357.47	377.96	+ 3.64	...
-do- Managed	488.32	429.91	+ 4.41	...
-do- Property	382.57	402.30	+11.70	...
(Pens)- Cash Cap	207.13	219.04	+ 0.04	...
-do- Cash Im	204.50	209.74	+ 0.26	...
-do- Equity Cap	1534.6	1615.4	- 20.08	...
-do- Equity Im	2180.4	2295.2	- 28.55	...
-do- Fixed Cap	423.08	445.35	+ 2.80	...
-do- Fixed Im	601.11	632.76	+ 3.54	...
-do- Index Cap	219.85	231.46	+ 1.44	...
-do- Index Im	312.40	328.95	+ 1.83	...
Mngd Cap	643.99	675.78	+ 5.75	...
Mngd Im	858.14	905.31	+ 7.00	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	5782.40		- 7.66	...
Var Ann (8)	988.36		- 0.66	...
Prime: Managed	421.70	447.90	- 1.70	...
Prime: UK Equity	510.40	537.30	- 5.40	...
Prime: Int Equity	330.90	337.20	- 3.10	...
Prime: Property	317.30	228.80	- 2.00	...
Prime Fxd Int	287.30	270.90	- 1.90	...
Prime: Index-Link	194.70	194.50	- 1.30	...
Prime Cash	194.90	210.50	- 0.10	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lynne Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
0438 744840				
Managed Fund	1165.0	1226.3	+17.00	...
Equity Fund	1706.0	1795.7	-30.30	...
CROWN FINANCIAL				
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW				
0483 763023				
Life Managd Acc	615.80	648.20	- 4.30	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	386.20	406.50	- 1.20	...
Life Equity Acc	856.90	901.90	-10.20	...
Life Money Acc	293.60	309.00	+ 0.10	...
Life Int Tst Acc	873.60	919.50	+ 1.00	...
Life Intl Acc	512.20	539.10	+ 1.90	...
Life High Inc Acc	821.60	864.80	- 1.70	...
Life Property Acc	257.50	271.00	+ 0.30	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1.389.9	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	721.70	759.60	- 3.90	...
Life Equity Acc	234.00	246.30	...	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	170.70	179.70	+ 0.10	...
Blue Chip Fund	252.30	265.60	- 0.70	...
-do- Series 2	163.30	171.80	+ 0.40	...
Adventurous Fd	217.80	229.30	+ 0.40	...
-do- Series 2	164.80	173.50	- 0.50	...
Performance Fd	255.90	269.40	+ 0.10	...
-do- Series 2	166.90	175.70	+ 0.10	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	151.30	159.30	- 0.70	...
UK Equity Fund	168.40	177.30	- 1.20	...
Property Fund	111.50	117.40	+ 0.50	...
Envrnmntl Opps	164.60	173.30	- 0.30	...
Euro Fund	182.90	192.60	+ 0.40	...
North Amer Fd	199.80	210.40	+ 0.60	...
Oriental Ops	255.10	268.60	+ 3.30	...
Japanese Fund	124.20	130.90	- 0.90	...
Bd & Mort Life	118.80	125.10	+ 0.10	...
Bd & West Fxn	131.40	138.40	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	267.80	278.20	- 3.90	3.07
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
0722 413566				
Managed (Mixed)	316.90	333.60	- 2.70	...
UK Equity	424.80	447.20	- 6.00	...
Stewardship	365.80	385.10	- 2.10	...
Overseas Equity	287.10	302.20	- 0.90	...
North American	154.70	162.90	- 1.50	...
Pacific Basin	170.40	179.40	+ 0.20	...
European	205.20	216.10	+ 2.80	...
Property	198.60	209.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	248.10	261.20	+ 2.30	...
Index Linked	174.80	184.20	- 1.60	...
Cash	194.40	205.20	+ 0.10	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Albion Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 071 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	367.50	386.90	-12.30	...
GT Plan Worlde	582.80	613.50	-20.70	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 627932				
Managed	210.80	221.90	- 4.80	...
Unitised Profit	128.20	134.90	- 0.20	...
UK Equity	201.20	208.40	- 4.30	...
Fixed Int	210.60	221.60	- 1.40	...
Index-Linked	176.40	185.60	- 1.20	...
Cash Deposit	170.30	179.30	+ 0.10	...
Property	179.30	188.70	- 5.90	...
International	192.60	202.70	- 0.50	...
American	160.70	169.10	- 0.50	...
Japan	153.60	155.80	- 1.00	...
Japan Smllr Cos	248.80	261.70	- 1.00	...
European	184.10	193.70	- 3.90	...
Pacific Fund	319.70	336.50	+ 9.80	...
Corp. Life	145.30	152.80	- 1.10	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	222.70	252.80	...	...
Managed Initial	908.80	955.60	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	211.90	222.90	...	...
Equity Initial	750.90	790.40	- 4.60	...
-do- Acc	1050.5	1105.8	- 5.90	...
Fixed Int Initial	482.40	507.80	- 1.10	...
-do- Acc	864.90	910.40	- 1.20	...
Intl Initial	486.20	511.80	+ 4.90	...
-do- Acc	680.30	716.00	+ 6.70	...
Nth Amer Initial	187.90	197.80	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc	329.20	351.80	- 1.10	...
Pacific Initial	259.40	273.10	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	727.20	344.40	- 0.20	...
Property Initial	164.20	172.80	...	...
-do- Acc	279.30	341.40	...	...
Index-Linkd Initl	171.60	180.60	- 1.90	...
-do- Acc	218.50	230.00	- 1.70	...
Deposit Initial	195.40	205.70	...	...
-do- Acc	273.30	287.70	+ 0.10	...
Euro Initial	104.60	110.10	+ 2.90	...
-do- Acc	123.10	129.60	+ 3.00	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE				
Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200939				
Managed	172.80	181.80	- 1.20	...
-do- Pens	215.90	225.10	- 1.50	...
UK Equity	173.20	182.60	- 1.60	...
-do- Pens	198.90	209.30	- 2.30	...
International	147.90	155.60	- 0.10	...
-do- Pens	160.60	169.00	- 0.10	...
Deposit	136.80	144.00	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	160.40	168.80	+ 0.10	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA				
071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	393.20	418.40	- 3.00	...
North America	362.50	385.70	+ 2.80	...
Far East Fund	698.10	740.65	- 2.30	...
Global Managed	499.60	531.50	...	...
Deposit Fund	224.20	236.00	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	127.30	134.10	...	...
European Fund	266.10	283.10	+ 4.30	...
Fixed Interest	71.90	76.50	- 0.10	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NIA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon				
081 686 4355				
Security Fund	533.90	565.00	- 6.60	...
British Fund	553.40	585.80	+ 6.40	...
International	535.60	566.80	+ 3.30	...
Dollar Fund	375.40	397.30	- 1.10	...
Capital Fund	488.20	516.70	- 2.40	...
Income Fund	737.60	780.60	- 9.70	...
Property Series A	428.60	453.60	...	5.30
Property Units	700.80	735.90	...	...
Financial Fund	630.30	667.00	+ 2.10	...
Managed Ser A	565.30	598.30	- 2.30	...
Managed Units	1012.1	1065.1	- 4.00	...
High Yield Fund	710.40	751.80	- 5.70	...
Money Series A	280.60	297.00	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	370.70	390.30	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	644.50	682.10	- 3.00	...
Fixed Interest	405.30	428.90	- 0.40	...
Indexed Sees	195.20	206.60	- 1.00	...
European Fund	744.30	787.70	+10.80	...
Natural Res	310.80	328.90	- 0.90	...
Far East Fund	661.90	700.50	+ 1.30	...
Smaller Cos	532.40	563.40	+ 2.80	...
Special Sits	473.20	500.80	- 2.70	...
Man Currency	257.20	272.20	+ 0.70	...
Japanese Tech	254.10	268.90	- 1.50	...
US Smaller Cos	223.70	236.80	+ 2.80	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5HY. 0727 61888				
Global Managed	573.60	603.80	- 4.80	...
Global Property	270.00	283.70	...	...
Global Fixed Int	546.30	575.00	- 7.10	...
Global Equity	612.30	644.40	- 8.70	...
Global Cash	207.90	218.80	+ 0.10	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Raymond, Gloucester GL4 7RZ				
0452 611761				
Gtd Mgd	512.40	539.30	- 2.60	...
Property	486.30	490.80	+11.20	...
Managed	436.50	459.40	+ 1.40	...
American	154.70	162.90	- 1.50	...
Pacific Basin	170.40	179.40	+ 0.20	...
European	205.20	216.10	+ 2.80	...
Property	198.60	209.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	248.10	261.20	+ 2.30	...
Index Linked	174.80	184.20	- 1.60	...
Cash	194.40	205.20	+ 0.10	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montpelier Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE				
0273 734000				
2 Bd Sov Unit Int	135.10	142.30	...	...
-do- Acc	181.50	191.10	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	150.80	158.80	- 1.90	...
-do- Acc	182.10	191.70	- 2.20	...
Cash Initial	170.60	179.60	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	280.30	295.10	- 0.20	...
Equity Initial	699.50	736.40	-10.00	...
-do- Acc	1171.1	1233.0	-16.80	...
Fixed Initial	379.40	399.40	- 4.20	...
-do- Acc	625.40	658.40	- 6.90	...
Indexed Gtd Gth	200.00	210.60	- 3.50	...
-do- Acc	200.00	210.60	- 3.50	...
Intl Initial	370.80	390.40	- 2.00	...
-do- Acc	611.40	643.60	- 3.30	...
Managed Initial	513.80	540.90	- 2.60	...
-do- Acc	860.40	905.70	- 4.40	...
Property Initial	203.20	213.90	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	340.20	358.20	- 0.50	...
LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND				
10 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH5 5EB				
031 550 8000				
Managed Fund	370.50	390.00	- 1.80	...
UK Equity	610.70	642.90	- 6.60	...
Property	296.40	312.00	+ 1.00	...
Money Market	246.20	259.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	348.10	362.30	- 2.60	...
Japan	389.10	409.60	- 2.30	...
North America	159			

INTEREST RATES TABLES

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax-rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	3.33	3.33	2.66	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	3.28	3.28	2.63	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	2.81	2.81	2.25	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
"	2.95	2.95	2.36	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Branch
Midland	3.38	3.38	2.70	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528555
" "	3.47	3.47	2.78	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528555
NatWest	3.47	3.47	2.78	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" "	3.47	3.47	2.78	25,000 *0,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MSIC	2.88	2.63	2.34	2,500‡	none	031-442 77 7
Barclays Prime a/c	1.70	1.70	1.35	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.19	0.19	0.15	500‡	none	071 626 6543
Citibank	3.56	3.62	2.90	2,000‡	none	0800 555894
Lloyds HICA	0.56	0.56	0.45	1,000	none	0272 433572
Midland HICA	1.12	1.12	0.90	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
Abbey National HICA	1.19	1.19	0.93	1,000‡	none	Local Branch
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	1.13	1.13	0.90	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank Islet Cheque Acct	1.50	1.50	1.20	2,000‡	none	071-606 6020
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
B. Bellarata	4.61	4.61	3.69	2,000 min	Postal	——
Birmingham Mid	4.91	4.91	3.93	25,000 min	Postal	——
Bradford & Bingley	5.33	5.33	4.26	25,000 min	30 day	——
Asset (Bristol&West)	5.86	5.86	4.53	50,000 min	90 day	——
Alliance & Leics	5.46	5.46	4.38	50,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Skipton	4.88	4.88	3.90	2,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	5.44	5.44	4.35	50,000 min	30 day	——
The Nottingham	4.80	4.80	3.84	25,000 min	90 day	——
Asset (Bristol&West)	5.48	5.48	4.38	25,000 min	90 day	——
Nottingham Imp	5.63	5.63	4.50	40,000 min	1 year	——

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyfacts - call 071-404-5788 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	3.25	2.44	1.95	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-4,500	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3 mth	0633 756151
7th Index Link†*	3.00	3.00	3.00	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
41st Issue Cert*	5.40	5.40	5.40	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	5.40	5.40	5.40	20-400/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	7.25	7.25	7.25	25-1,000		
Gen Ext Relief	3.51	3.51	3.51			
Capital Bond*	7.25	5.44	4.35	100-250,000	6 days	041-649-4555
1st Option Bond*	4.50	4.50	3.60	1,000-250,000		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Consolidated Lf	4.30	4.30	3.66	2,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Prosperity	4.78	4.78	4.06	25,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Financial Ass	5.20	5.20	4.42	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Financial Ass	5.65	5.65	4.80	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Eurolife	6.00	6.00	5.10	10,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RATES		**HOLIDAY RATES**	£ buys
RPI (Nov 82=100)	+1.4%	Spanish Pesetas:	203.50
Bank Base Rate	5.5%	French Francs:	8.58
Personal Loan	25%	Greek Drachmas:	370.00
Credit Card	25 - 27%	Italian Lire:	2486.00

TESSA	CAR (%)	£3,000 val 1 year on	Transfer penalty	Minimum investment	Telephone number
Hinkley & Rug	7.75	£3,232.50	90 day loss	£25	0455 251234
Dunfermline	7.65	£3,228.50	1mths noticeloss	£3,000	0383 721621
Progressive	7.50	£3,225.00	£25+1mths notice	£1	0282 244926
National Count	7.25	£3,217.50	90 day loss	£3,000	0372 742211
Shepshed	7.25	£3,217.50	£25	£1	0509 503302

† 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less * Additional holdings up to £50,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates ‡Tax free *Interest monthly paid gross ‡Higher rates for larger sums ‡ Guaranteed over the rate of inflation ‡ 0.3% net bonus for amounts £20,000+.

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Pension transfers not always the fault of over-zealous salesmen

From the Director of Information Services, National Association of Pension Funds

Sir, The letter you published from Nigel Chambers (January 1) suggests that transfers from company pension schemes to personal pensions are not entirely the fault of over-zealous salesmen, on the grounds that if those running company schemes had made a better job of explaining their benefits, the problems would not arise.

I am in no position to speak for all pension managers (and I doubt if anyone else is either) but I would like to assure both Mr Chambers and your readers that many members of the National Association of Pension Funds Ltd have gone to great lengths to discourage people from leaving their schemes.

However, we do not live in the perfect market envisaged in some economic textbooks and there are limits to what can be achieved by reasoned persuasion.

One reason why some pension managers may be reluctant to offer reinstatement is that they know the issues were fully explained before a transfer took place. But not by the personal pension salesman!

The NAPF fully supports the SIB inquiry and we will be co-operating with them to try to achieve satisfactory solutions where it is established that personal pensions policies have been *mis*-sold.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE BROWN,
Director of Information Services,
NAPF,
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens,
SW1.

Friendly society's unfriendly ten-year return

From Mr L. S. Ward

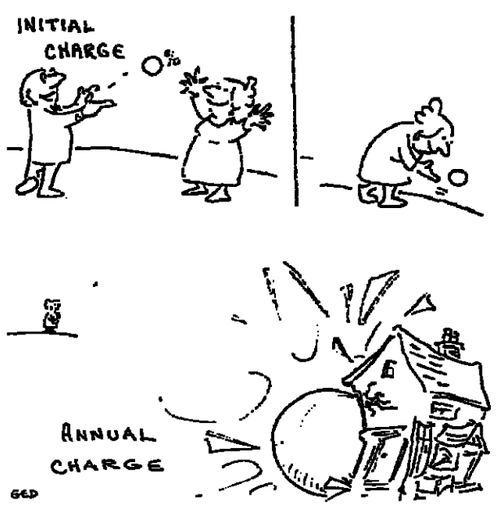
Sir, My Lancashire & Yorkshire Friendly Society policy matures at the end of this month and during the ten-year period I have invested a total of £3,000, which is to say £25 per month.

I am now informed that the current value of the policy is £3,138, which even allowing for the 12 per cent levy is a dreadful return. I cannot understand why this should be so, since half the premiums were invested in the Gartmore Japan Trust. While this trust has had its ups and downs, if it followed the Gartmore Japan fund it has shown an almost threefold increase in the ten-year period. Clerical Medical over the same period produced a value of £5,834 and a building society would have shown £4,533.

One cannot help thinking that for a society which boasted of tax-exempt status, there is something wrong somewhere.

Yours sincerely,
L. STEPHEN WARD,
Well House,
Wormington,
Worcestershire.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS



Penalised by Pep annual charges

From Mr A. R.W. Broadway

Sir, It seems that many — perhaps most — investors are influenced more by initial charges than running costs, judging by recent moves to low or zero initial charges for Peps.

The annual charge on these funds is typically 1.5 per cent, compared with perhaps 0.75 per cent previously (on an income fund) when combined with an initial charge. For an income fund currently generating about 4 per cent annually, the tax refund works out at little more than the extra running charge of 0.75 per cent.

The fund managers, it seems, are likely to derive most, if not all, of the benefit of the annual tax refund. The situation would not be so bad if percentage returns were higher than 4 per cent, as in the not so distant past, but worse if the returns are less, which is possible in the near future.

The long-term investor looking for growth of income over the years should clearly have as much an eye to the annual charge as initial charge, even when the initial charge is zero.

ALEC R. W. BROADWAY,
7 Long Acres Close,
Coombe Dingle,
Bristol.

Building society obstacle course on re-mortgage for home improvements

From Mr David Wade-Smith

Sir, I read with interest your main article "When getting a mortgage takes for ever" (January 8). My recent application for a re-mortgage for home improvements with a leading building society was treated with staggering ineptitude.

The mortgage sought was a 30 per cent loan to value, in joint names, but to be supported from one principal salary, which adequately covered the borrowing.

I have a salaried, continuous employment record of 21 years, with spouse who is also in full-time employment on a good salary with the local authority.

Questions on the original application form enquired as to unit trusts, personal pension plans and other investment products held, all I consider superfluous to our application.

Good references were obtained, but they saw fit to ask for copies of Access statements (always cleared monthly) and further details of my spouse's financial standing.

Their personnel also had three attempts at administering the Miras forms and, to this day, they have still failed to implement our net payment.

Building insurance was added when not requested (existing in force) to compound my exasperation.

Is this the price we must pay for foolhardy lending in past years?

Yours faithfully,
D. P. WADE-SMITH,
15 Gypsy Lane,
Marlow,
Buckinghamshire.

Displaying a healthy creativity with figures

From Mr James Stratton

Sir, Britains's big four banks must be congratulated ("Bankers of the Future", January 22). Their claims to command 103 per cent of the student banking market — notwithstanding other smaller banks — shows a healthy creativity for handling figures.

If Barclays reported drive for more student customers further expands this seemingly infinite market, we can all breathe another sigh of relief that our money remains in such trusted institutions.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES STRATTON,
Flat 1,
15 St Stephens Gardens,
W2.

☐ Letters are welcomed, and can be sent by fax to 071-782 5112. *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

A'b UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
St Helmsley Rd, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1RZ
0895 259 783

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Grofund Amer	169.80	178.80	+ 0.30	...
Grofund Equity	256.50	271.40	+ 3.90	1.13
Grofund Euro	203.60	214.30	+ 3.10	...
Grofund Exch Bal	123.80	130.30	+ 2.60	0.99
Grofund Gilt	82.34	84.89	+ 0.48	4.16
Grofund Japan	166.60	175.40	+ 2.50	...

AAA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
Equity & Law Hse, Corpn St, Coventry
0203 553 231

General Acc	352.70	365.00	- 9.60	2.06
General Inc	297.90	329.70	- 8.70	2.06
I+K Growth Acc	378.00	402.20	- 6.20	2.21
UK Growth Inc	264.70	281.70	- 4.30	2.21
Higher Inc Acc	712.70	758.20	+10.10	3.09
Higher Inc Inc	426.10	453.40	- 6.10	3.08
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	196.70	207.70	+ 0.10	5.34
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	100.60	106.20	+ 0.10	5.34
Nth America	362.90	379.70	+ 2.00	...
Far East	363.60	386.90	+ 4.50	...
Europe	278.40	296.20	+ 9.40	0.52
Brit Excell	76.08	80.94	+ 0.31	2.29
Brit Fndmtls Acc	109.60	114.30	- 1.20	3.88
Brit Fndmtls Inc	81.57	86.78	- 0.91	3.88
Global Opps	86.18	91.69	- 0.36	...
Balanced Acc	56.81	60.44	- 0.66	2.10
Balanced Inc	56.30	59.90	- 0.65	2.10

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
80 Maidenhead Rd, Bournemouth 0345 777 373

High Income				
Glbl & Fixed Int	141.60	150.10†	+ 1.10	5.33
High Inc Equity	180.00	191.40†	+ 2.30	3.80
Worldwide Bond	272.30	288.80	+ 0.10	3.64
Capital Growth				
American Growth	311.50	333.10†	+ 1.20	.95
Asian Pacific	378.10	404.30	+ 2.50	...
Assets & Earnings	294.50	302.60	+ 2.50	1.71
Comdty & Energy	130.90	139.20	+ 3.80	.40
1992 Enterprise	97.31	104.00	+ 0.30	1.39
Euro Capital Inc	131.20	140.30	+ 2.40	.69
General	249.30	265.40	+ 1.10	2.05
Japan	120.40	128.70	+ 0.50	...
Mastertrust	146.90	157.10	+ 0.50	.83
UK Growth Dist	147.50	156.90	+ 0.30	1.68
US Emerging Cos	139.90	148.80	+ 0.10	.
Income & Growth	418.20	444.80	+ 4.90	2.05
Ethical	78.32	83.31	+ 0.74	1.99
International	119.40	127.00	+ 0.20	.14

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
14 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7NS
031 220 0733

UK Small Cos	1914.0	1886.0	+22.00	...

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ
0800 835 580

Aberdeen Portfolio	67.05	66.32†	- 0.11	0.75
Amer Inc & Growth	45.96	49.14	- 0.28	0.64
Cash	50.31	50.31†	+ 0.04	4.78
European	107.34	113.90	+ 2.70	...
European Income	102.40	108.60	+ 3.40	1.37
Exempt	107.71	114.15	+ 1.90	3.27
Extra Income	57.16	62.02	+ 0.39	4.25
Far East Emg Eco	122.50	132.00	+ 0.30	0.49
Fixed Interest	26.85	28.67†	+ 0.19	6.43
Fund Inv Tst	190.00	202.90	+ 3.10	0.83
Japan	189.30	200.70	+ 2.00	...
Latin American	80.77	85.83	+ 2.25	0.58
Pacific	76.52	81.95	+ 0.06	0.33
Property Share	79.13	84.47†	+ 0.25	1.85
UK Emerging Cos	72.77	77.67†	+ 2.17	1.61
UK Growth	48.42	52.18	- 0.51	2.26
World Growth	70.72	65.09	+ 0.11	0.64

ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 690 336

UK Equity Income	100.27	106.67	- 1.33	2.74
UK Equity Growth	89.07	94.71	- 0.39	1.99
European	69.44	73.87	+ 1.91	0.61
NE American	68.70	73.08	- 0.54	0.96
Far Eastern	72.12	76.72†	+ 0.04	0.33
Money	65.23	66.37†	+ 0.04	3.79

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
031 549 3222

British Growth	75.52	80.35	- 0.47	2.13
British Income	85.08	90.51	- 0.69	2.87
Select Portfolio	89.27	94.97	+ 0.70	...

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
101 King's Road Brentwood CM14 4DR
0452 305 958

Amity Income	91.40	96.37	- 1.01	1.88
Income Builder Inc	72.65	77.29†	- 1.68	2.61

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
IFA dlg: 0793 619 346 Client dlg: 0793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	261.80	279.80	- 3.90	2.70
Capital	456.40	487.80	- 5.60	1.59
Balanced	753.60	805.30†	- 6.30	3.25
Accumulator	1347.0	1439.0	-20.00	2.66
Income Trusts				
American Income	50.20	53.66†	- 0.63	3.32
High Income	460.00	491.70	- 7.40	3.18
Equity Income	276.40	295.40†	- 3.20	3.19
High Yield	283.00	302.50†	- 3.80	3.10
Govt Securities	36.15	38.15	- 0.24	4.80
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	138.40	147.90	- 0.50	0.24
European Growth	34.73	36.95	+ 1.14	0.43
International	165.00	176.10†	- 0.20	0.34
Japan	203.50	217.00†	- 1.30	0.01
Pacific	438.40	468.60†	+ 0.70	0.17
Spec of America	641.20	685.40†	- 0.40	0.59
Worldc Asset Val	48.27	51.57	+ 0.08	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	576.90	616.70†	+10.20	2.03
Comm & Gth	31.74	35.31†	- 1.69	3.91
Smaller Cos	180.90	193.70†	+ 0.20	1.17
2nd Smaller Cos	178.70	191.00	+ 0.20	1.15
Recovery	156.40	167.10	- 1.90	1.66
Met Min & City	199.80	170.80	- 3.10	0.73
Overs Earnings	382.40	408.70†	- 5.50	1.92

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QP 0293 526 911

Cntrntl Gnl Pens	105.20	109.20	...	1.45
Foundtn Pens Pens	67.77	70.40	...	4.00

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
28 St John's Sq, London EC1M 4AE
071 251 6767

Capital	76.21	81.07†	- 2.20	2.60
International	64.32	68.42	- 0.50	0.49

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY
031 222 4262

America	306.40	330.10	+ 3.00	...
Bond	129.60	136.30†	- 1.60	5.77
Brit Smlr Cos	105.80	113.60	- 0.50	0.91
Conv & Gen	68.37	72.97	- 0.18	4.78
Energy	457.30	496.00†	+ 1.30	0.22
Europe	234.60	249.80	+ 7.50	0.46
Euro Smlr Cos	103.50	110.00	+ 3.10	0.86
Income Growth	381.40	407.00†	+ 1.00	3.77
Japan	318.10	339.40	- 5.50	...
Pacific	121.90	129.70†	- 1.80	0.64
UK Smlr Cos	53.39	56.80†	- 0.31	0.81

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 499 8875

Brit & Overs	307.90	324.10	+ 3.20	1.12
Capital Gwth	123.40	129.90	- 2.60	2.07
Worldc Opps	205.40	216.20	+ 0.70	0.44

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	376.40	392.10	- 5.30	2.21
European Bd Inc	99.39	102.90†		7.17
Exempt	82.57	88.07	- 0.93	3.51
Financial	93.06	98.86	- 0.13	1.90
Gwth Inc	96.30	102.30	- 0.70	2.02
General	295.40	316.00	- 4.30	2.14
Property	246.90	264.10	- 0.10	5.55
Trustee	201.20	215.20†	- 2.70	1.68
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.30	100.30†	- 0.10	4.53
Extra Income	139.20	148.10	- 1.40	3.63
Gilt & Fxd Int	63.90	66.03	- 0.45	7.55
Income	563.00	623.50†	- 9.40	3.58
Income Builder	77.47	82.87	- 0.19	4.16
Intl Income	71.93	76.42†	+ 0.19	2.66
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	125.60	134.00	- 2.60	2.10
Leisure	129.90	138.90	- 1.60	1.01
Recovery	450.60	482.00	- 2.60	2.08
Smlr Cos Inv	45.29	48.57	+ 0.69	1.80
Special Sits	304.40	327.70	- 3.60	1.56
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	137.10	145.50	+ 0.23	0.31
Asset Alc	275.70	293.30	- 4.20	1.21
Asst Inv	172.60	183.60†	+ 2.70	1.21
Euro Growth Inc	147.20	153.70†	+ 1.20	0.67
Japan & Gen Inc	171.60	183.00	- 0.30	.
Japan Spec Sits	77.65	82.28	- 0.46	.

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4YQ
081 658 6002

Australian Growth	122.40	128.50	+ 0.80	...
Amer Smlr Cos	133.40	142.90	+ 1.40	...
Cash Trust	50.48	50.48	+ 0.03	4.90
Commodities	63.68	68.10†	+ 0.06	5.60
Eastern	314.25	346.10	+12.30	1.80
Equity Income	98.70	105.00†	+ 0.40	4.90
European Growth	298.60	314.30	+ 4.80	1.50
Europe	212.10	226.10	+ 1.90	1.50
German Growth	71.70	76.32	+ 1.33	0.70
Global Bond	70.47	74.47†	- 0.15	5.30
Global Growth	131.20	142.90	+ 0.80	...
Japan Growth	235.70	25.1.00	+ 2.80	...
Japan Sunrise	177.10	188.80	+ 1.70	...
Korea Trust	81.71	92.72	+16.34	...
Portfolio	242.90	152.30	+ 1.30	3.00
UK Growth	99.83	108.20	+ 0.30	2.60

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
20-34 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL
071 250 3300

Intl Fixed Int Inc	90.66	95.83†	- 1.09	..
Special Opportunities	55.15	58.67	- 1.13	..

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
5 Giltspur St, London EC1A 9DE 071 236 6461

Special Sits	189.97	202.10	+ 4.30	0.99
Dividend	98.02	94.14†	+ 1.09	4.16
Inc Gth & Inc	230.00	299.20†	- 2.50	2.42
UK & Gen	48.29	51.61	- 0.55	1.54
Fund of Funds	69.07	73.87	+ 0.21	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR
041 223 6000

Balanced Growth	115.80	123.80	- 2.00	1.27
Smaller Cos	109.78	117.41	+ 0.50	0.97
Higher Yield	68.84	52.34†	- 0.50	2.43
American Gilt Inc	74.38	79.55	+ 0.54	..
European Growth	136.17	145.94	+ 3.65	..
Global Bond Inc	31.80	33.74†	+ 0.24	4.44
Managed Pfolio Inc	45.64	48.82	+ 0.22	1.62

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 480 7236

Short Dated Gilt	70.36	71.31	- 0.11	4.89

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH
061 837 5060

Environ	165.30	170.60†	- 0.80	1.24
UK Growth	176.90	188.20	- 3.60	1.60
UK Income	147.20	156.60	+ 2.00	3.52

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
0707 651 122

Can Gen Dist	195.80	207.50†	- 3.30	1.74
Can Income Dist	120.70	127.90	- 1.20	4.12
Gilt & Fxd Int	45.84	48.59	- 0.41	5.80

For Canada see Lincoln National

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M12 2AF
061 236 5695 Enq: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5342

American & Gen	152.80	162.60	- 0.60	...
European Inc	79.92	84.65	+ 1.85	0.52
Smaller Cos Hi-Yl	85.22	90.67	+ 0.78	1.44
Growth	462.10	494.70	- 3.30	1.95
Income & Growth	446.10	474.80†	- 8.50	3.13
Japan & Gen	69.68	74.13	- 0.29	...
Master Portfolio	112.01	116.11†	-74.00	1.68

CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS
Capital House, Festival Square, Edinburgh
031 228 4477 Dealing: 0800 333 664

American Gwth Tst	38.30	41.17	+ 0.01	0.89
Cash Income	50.37	50.37	+ 0.04	5.06
European Gwth	39.80	43.44	+ 0.79	0.82
Income & Gwth Inc	30.64	32.77	- 3.08	3.78
Intnl Gwth	32.10	34.33	- 0.06	0.75
Japan Gwth	28.40	28.33	- 0.45	...
Managed Tst Inc	51.45	55.02	+ 0.31	0.68
Oriental Opps Inc	164.90	176.30	+ 3.50	0.56
Property Shares	48.15	51.49†	- 0.31	1.58
Smaller Cos	34.39	36.78	+ 1.06	1.44
UK Growth Tst	27.62	29.54	+ 0.49	2.55
Formerly Brown Shipley				
European Inc	26.27	28.09	+ 0.63	0.38
European Acc	27.34	29.13	+ 0.65	0.38
Financial	164.30	175.70	+ 2.70	2.52
Foundation	98.87	105.10	- 0.10	2.42
German	49.58	53.02	- 1.01	0.07
High Income	83.82	89.64†	- 0.63	5.69
Income	148.90	159.20	- 1.10	3.66
Intl Growth	38.78	41.47	+ 0.26	0.16
Mngd Pfolio Acc	110.48	118.00	- 0.90	1.57
Mngd Pfolio Inc	210.00	224.50	- 1.80	1.57
Monthly Income	88.33	94.38†	- 2.57	3.41
North American	109.60	116.70†	- 0.50	0.15
Orient	149.50	159.80	- 2.30	...

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 0788

Cazenove Portfolio	88.92	91.84†	- 0.16	2.11
American Portfolio	91.94	98.10	- 0.10	1.00
European Portfolio	97.52	104.20	+ 3.50	0.97
Japanese Portfolio	65.57	69.84	- 0.76	...
Pacific Portfolio	150.72	162.07	- 0.47	0.73
UK Inc & Growth	79.25	84.84	- 0.46	3.48
Utility & Bond	61.44	62.14	+ 0.64	5.85

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000

UK General Tst	69.27	73.68	- 0.90	2.72
Global Tst	64.61	68.52	+ 0.04	0.28
Recovery Tst	73.08	77.74	- 1.53	1.69

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD
071 837 7661

Intl Growth	149.06	160.70†	- 0.05	...
UK Growth	116.23	125.20	+ 1.34	1.01
UK Income	119.05	129.52†	+ 1.40	3.70

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Beckman Intl	92.47	97.67	- 0.67	1 71
Beck Bio-Tech	41.92	44.60†	- 0.95	...
Beckman Ethical Tst	172.25	181.40†	- 0.19	1 16
City Fin Assets	79.71	83.90	+ 5.03	1.50
City Fin America	80.71	84.96	- 1.37	...
City Fin Intl	79.70	83.89	- 2.03	0.47
City Fin Japan	160.13	168.56	+ 0.53	...
Friars Hse Cap	293.87	310.97†	+ 9.07	2.10
Friars Hse Inc	214.01	227.67	+ 4.46	4.62
Buckley Wrld Gwth	145.13	154.39	+ 2.05	0.65
Falkland Cap Gth	147.76	155.54	+ 0.53	...
do- Inc & Gth	122.28	128.68	- 0.98	1.50

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0392 452 144
Emerging Markets 61.15 64.89 + 1.49 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 375 393

American Gwth	58.98	63.59	...	...
Atlas Magd Gwth	38.27	41.15	- 0.22	0.08
Dragon Growth	79.08	84.58	- 0.23	0.30
Equity High Inc	90.56	96.08	- 0.43	3.18
European Gwth	50.53	53.61	+ 1.01	0.59
Evergreen	31.32	33.50	+ 0.12	...
General Equity	90.40	95.91	- 0.92	1.93
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	27.75	29.39†	- 0.17	7.83
Japan Growth	46.75	50.44	- 0.85	...
Pedigree Gwth	53.80	57.08	- 0.35	1.84
Ped Sm Cos Inc	34.35	36.45	- 0.23	0.56
Retirement Inc	28.78	30.95	- 0.12	4.81

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Chelsea Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 898 000

Capital	68.41	73.17	- 1.27	2.62
Income	65.85	70.43	- 0.78	3.54

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park,
Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9818
FREESTYLE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	181.34	192.92	- 2.14	4.58
Fixed & Convertible	48.49	51.58†	+ 0.53	5.51
Monthly Inc Plus	55.26	58.79	+ 0.07	7.82
Preference Shares	53.86	57.30†	+ 0.24	6.64
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	143.04	152.17†	- 2.94	5.40
Managed Fund	71.52	76.09	- 0.12	2.65
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	44.97	47.84	- 0.13	1.72
UK & General	83.26	88.57	- 2.18	2.44
UK Growth	144.43	153.65	- 1.85	1.58
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	190.59	202.76	+ 6.59	...
Far Eastern Gth	143.59	152.76	+ 1.19	0.27
Global Bond	88.44	93.97	+ 0.07	5.69
Japan Growth	118.14	125.68	- 1.00	...
North Amer Gwth	166.56	177.19	- 0.08	...
Oriental Growth	90.02	95.77	+ 3.34	...
Worldwide Growth	65.40	69.57	+ 0.29	0.24

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 240

Growth Inc	61.89	65.84†	- 1.05	2.90
High Income	36.36	38.68	- 0.44	4.30
Japan	34.21	36.39	- 0.28	...
Smaller Cos Inc	33.37	35.50	- 0.01	2.70
Smaller Cos	34.73	36.94	- 0.01	2.70
North American	33.35	35.47	+ 0.01	0.50
European	37.74	40.14	+ 0.95	0.40

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Consistent UT 34.04 36.47 - 0.42 4.06

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 356

Growth	154.60	164.50	+ 2.10	1.70
Income	81.17	86.36†	...	3.96
European	61.29	65.21	+ 1.85	0.74
Recovery	148.70	158.10	+ 0.20	1.48

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ 071 283 9494
Equity Dist 871.20 886.20† ... 3.44

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 690 378
Fellowship Tst 76.70 81.80 - 0.04 1 74
Income 258.10 274.60 - 1.50 4.10
Smaller Cos 158.00 168.10† + 4.00 1.21
Inv Portfolio 82.12 87.37 - 0.06 1.67
High Income Port 73.41 78.10 - 0.22 4.35

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
551 Kingsbury, London EC2M 5XS
071 489 0777

Euro Small Cos	1498.6	1534.4	+10.80	...
Japan Small Cos	1156.9	1180.1	- 5.50	...
UK Small Cos	1884.4	1960.6†	+24.70	...
US Small Cos	1662.9	1708.1	- 7.40	...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8819

Disc Inc	204.20	215.00	+ 8.70	2.73

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2500

Dunedin Gwth	259.00	274.80	+ 7.50	1.09
New Asia	341.60	360.40	+ 5.70	0.30
Japan Growth	119.20	126.60	- 2.60	...
Jap Smlr Co	496.80	527.50	- 3.70	...
Nth Amer	253.50	269.00	- 3.10	0.91
Shrd2nd Asia Pac Ml	153.00	162.40	- 2.20	0.94
UK Inc & Gth	233.50	249.00	- 3.90	3.25

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	150.30	159.90	- 1.50	2.15
UK High Inc Inc	167.20	177.90	- 2.40	4.48
UK Pref & Fixed Int	64.72	68.82	- 0.44	6.42
Envrnmntl Opps	86.37	91.88	- 0.23	1.34

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanover Street, Edinburgh
0345 090 526

American	124.10	131.90	- 0.50	0.15
Convertibles	25.26	26.84†	- 0.17	6.15
Equity Income	145.30	154.40†	- 1.70	3.24
EuroPortf	49.97	48.62†	- 1.20	0.67
Financial	54.80	58.23	- 0.28	1.37
Growth & Inc	254.50	270.40	- 3.10	2.77
High Dist	176.60	188.00	- 0.30	3.99
International	427.90	473.40	+ 0.20	0.52
Japan	103.70	107.50†	- 1.50	2.42
Latin American	53.70	57.06	- 2.66	0.22
Pacific	93.65	98.87	+ 2.94	...
Tokyo	203.20	222.20	+ 2.50	...
UK Smaller Cos	248.30	263.80	- 1.10	0.89

ELCON LTD
Consul Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 78838
Elcon Trust 225.20 240.50

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7284
Endurance Fd 213.90 227.60 + 0.40 0.37

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 434 488

Aberdeen Portfolio	80.02	84.33	+ 2.51	1 54
Far Eastern	327.48	344.72	- 0.19	1.29
High Income	146.40	154.11	- 1.49	3.98
Intl Growth	128.54	135.31	- 0.16	0.70
North American	120.19	126.52	- 0.05	1.00
Pelican	127.23	133.93	- 1.25	2.70
Smaller Cos	78.95	83.10	+ 0.19	1.79
Special Sits	98.48	103.66	- 1.32	1.95
Tst Of Inv Tsts	200.58	211.14	+ 0.99	1.73

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	221.52	232.63	+ 1.20	1.55
Smaller Cos Acc	386.62	402.73	+ 2.08	1.55
Recovery	60.04	62.54	+ 1.09	1.82

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144

Balanced	121.64	129.12	- 1.30	4.45
Capital Growth	68.68	98.10	- 0.39	...
Fd of Inv Tsts	48.21	51.43†	- 0.07	0.22
High Income	90.53	53.96†	- 0.06	8.21
Warrant	68.47	74.43	- 0.31	..
Zero Preference	38.06	40.41†	- 0.02	...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
86 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 228 787

Family Asset Tst	78.85	83.88†	...	2.25
Family Income Tst	53.08	56.46	...	8.75
Family Trust	86.66	92.18†	...	1.32
United Charities	265.00	281.90	...	3.09

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181
Cash Fund

Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	...	4.70
Stabilizer Growth Range				
Controlled Risk UK	25.16	26.52	- 0.05	3.02
-do- Europe	24.26	25.57	+ 0.01	4.89
-do- America	23.71	24.97	+ 0.05	0.43
-do- Acc Japan	27.84	29.52	- 0.09	0.61
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	31.09	32.36†	+ 0.14	6.06
Intl Bond	32.65	34.09†	+ 0.06	4.76
Income Funds				
High Income	30.17	31.75	- 0.04	4.39
Income Plus	132.90	141.40	- 0.70	3.58
Amer Eq Inc	48.72	51.47†	+ 0.20	1.76
European Income	48.38	48.47	+ 0.81	2.25
Far East Inc	64.87	69.18	- 0.30	2.34
Global Convertible	25.88	27.61†	- 0.30	2.00
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	66.82	71.28	+ 2.66	...
American	240.70	255.10	+ 3.00	...
Amer Spec Sits	113.90	120.30	- 0.80	...
Japan Smaller Cos	39.33	41.90	- 0.17	...

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
20 Finsbury St, Lead EC2Y 9AQ 071 814 2700

Balanced	149.50	152.30	- 1.20	1.98
Far Pfolio	98.35	98.20	- 0.86	3.25
Cap Pfolio	155.50	158.30†	- 2.80	0.56
General Opps	138.50	140.70	- 0.60	3.07
Growth Inc	33.10	33.76	- 0.46	2.02
Private Portfolio	439.50	447.30	- 4.00	1.37

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Admin. PO Box 2081, Brentwood, Essex
CM15 8DR Enq: 0277 454 1454 Dlg: 0277 261 010

Hypo Foreign & Colonial				
European	114.80	121.10	+ 3.30	...
Far Eastern	185.80	199.20	+ 5.40	...
High Income	23.65	25.17	- 0.30	10.03
Opens Income	101.70	108.50†	+ 1.30	2.75
UK Growth	121.70	130.20†	+ 0.20	0.73
UK Income	117.10	125.40	- 1.20	4.78
US Smaller Cos	299.70	316.30	+ 3.80	...

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
1 Wine Office Court, London EC4A 3BE
071 353 5968

High Inc Equ	53.21	56.61†	- 1.00	3.67
-do- Inv Tst Inc	82.48			

Firm end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 17. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day Monday. Settlement day February 7. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price p	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
524	345	Abbey Nat	498	-6	11.8	3.8	10.3
314	179	Allied Irish	295	-3	...	2.5	15.1
2554	130	Anz New Z	2554	+4	...	3.5	∞
2804	2725	Bankamerica	3031½	+32½	...	...	...
199	122	Bk of Ireland	195	+3	...	4.1	22.5
375	295	Bk Lautaro ORD	375	...	17.0	5.3	...
367	136	Bank Scotland	361	+4	...	4.6	24.7
652	502	Barclays	627	+9	...	2.5	...
44	16½	Chelfild	44	+½	...	...	...
680	505	Cater Allen	668	...	20.0	3.4	...
180	95	Charles	174	+1	...	3.2	20.1
2657	1945	Close Meath	2265	...	...	...	...
2059	1345	Citicorp	2025	+45	...	...	...
560	280	Close Bros	558	...	...	2.5	20.7
11534	9777	Commercial	11415	+350	...	2.7	...
12485	12305	Deutsche Bk	12515	+105	...	2.0	...
95	45	First Nat Fin	90	...	1.5	2.1	∞
1661	856	Fuji Bank Y	1289	+21	...	0.4	...
329	243	Gerrard Nat	328	...	21.5	5.3	15.6
960	490	HSBC	958	+5	20.0	2.6	21.8
1020	687	HSBC HK	990	+8	20.0	2.6	21.8
469	283	Hambros	469	+7	14.3	3.9	21.2
433	313	Joseph (L)	430	...	16.5	4.9	...
170	94	King Shaxson	167	...	9.0	6.7	...
669	312	Kleinwort Ben	653	+11	16.7	3.7	22.8
680	482	Lloyds	648	+15	30.1	5.7	19.3
118	68	Lon Scot Bk	115	+½	3.5	3.5	15.7
597	322	Nat Aust Bk	587	+8	...	2.5	∞
634	358	Nat West	598	+7	17.8	3.7	24.6
573	388	Provident	540	-1	12.4	2.9	21.2
63	38	Roy Trust	54	...	0.5	1.1	18.6
494	307	Sil Bk Scot	484	+3	...	2.5	21.8
1450	1074	Schroders	1420	+7	...	1.1	22.3
1530	978	Stand Chart	1395	+25	20.5	1.5	...
291	145	TSB	279	...	...	3.5	20.4
198	78	Union Dis	187	+2	...	...	...
1039	529	Warburg SG	998	-6	...	2.5	14.0
91125	49625	Wells Fargo	89375	+125	...	2.5	...
267	123	Westpac	267	-5	...	3.4	21.9
360	188	Wintrust	360	+5	...	2.4	...

BREWERIES

687	577	Allied-Lyons	657	-11	...	4.1	17.2
647	441	Bass	641	+4	...	4.4	15.2
259	189	Boddington	259	+3	7.5	3.4	16.2
399	282	Bulmer (HP)	428	...	...	3.5	17.2
253	128	Burmond Rw	253	+2	4.7	3.5	24.5
181	78	Eldridge P's A	181	...	...	2.7	22.1
90	50	Forest Brewing	85	...	...	4.4	...
466	338	Fuller Sm 'A'	466	...	7.5	2.5	19.7
384	302	Grand Met	480	+9	...	3.4	18.7
1035	775	Greenall Grp	1035	+15	...	2.5	18.5
545	388	Greene King	545	+6	...	2.9	19.5
562	388	Guinness	517	+6	...	2.9	19.5
89	51	Hilkin Kings	86	...	...	1.2	21.5
581	298	Hardy Hanson	581	+7	...	2.1	18.4
138	108	Hawthorne	135	...	3.0	2.2	17.2
486	298	Highland Dist	486	+2	...	2.0	20.7
3150	2530	Holt J	3150	...	42.0	1.7	20.6
253	250	Inergentia Dist	250	...	...	2.0	20.7
138	118	Macallan-Glen	138	...	4.3	3.4	17.2
465	365	Macdn Mann 'A'	465	...	...	2.5	21.2
366	264	Marshall	291	...	...	2.2	16.5
382	291	Matson Thump	382	...	...	2.5	20.7
395	295	Matthew Clark	395	...	...	3.9	19.3
420	310	Morgdven W	398	...	7.0	3.5	20.2
500	455	Morland	500	...	...	2.2	18.9
13	...	Nexus Media	13½	...	...	1.8	19.6
291	145	Regent Inns	291	...	...	2.4	21.2
1521	759	SA Breweries	1271	...	...	2.2	21.0
998	598	Scot & Nwc	998	+6	...	2.7	12.5
325	155	Tennents Cider	182	+6	6.2	4.2	14.6
286	215	Vaux Group	286	+2	...	4.0	19.0
388	295	Websterpoint JD	385	+5	...	1.8	20.4
617	428	Whitbread 'A'	582	-11	...	1.8	14.2
1040	845	Wolverhmpn D	1020	-15	32.6	3.0	...
525	475	Young 'A'	523	-2	14.7	3.5	22.4

BUILDING, ROADS

190	73	Abbey	190	...	...	1.3	31.2
29½	12	Albrighton A	20	...	...	0.6	...
178	92	Alma	178	...	...	1.6	40.3
143	65	Amec	141	+4	3.0	2.7	20.1
14½	4	Anglia Sec	14½	+2½	...	...	...
359	158	Ashtead	288	...	...	1.5	41.0
356	161	Ashwoods	356	+1	...	1.4	...
363	180	BPB Ind	363	...	...	2.7	21.4
127	57	Baggeridge Brk	124	...	...	3.2	37.3
41	18	Bailey (Ben) Cm	37	...	...	0.6	...
108	71	Barrow	72	...	3.0	5.2	...
57	33½	Bardon	52	...	1.9	4.7	24.1
278	94	Barratt Dev	268	-2	...	1.9	21.8
269	152½	Bellway	262	+1	...	2.5	∞
59½	15	Bethmich	55	+1	...	...	...
584	295½	Berkeley Gp	580	-6	...	1.5	28.8
151	45	Bett Bros	151	...	...	1.7	30.4
68	36	Blockleys	64	-1	1.0	2.0	20.7
391	189	Blue Circle	385	-2	...	2.8	...
355	230	Boot (Henry)	343	...	6.0	2.2	10.1
169	72	Bradstan PLC	169	+4	...	4.6	53.2
178	88	Br Dredging	152	...	4.0	3.2	30.4
86	45	Brk Pitchings	79	...	...	1.7	14.4
169½	99	Bryant	170	-4	...	3.4	36.1
146	80	CALA	145	...	...	2.8	...
385	200	CRH	380	...	...	2.3	20.9
43	18	Cakebread Hby	38	...	...	...	...
41½	21	Costain	39½	...	...	...	...
178	86½	Countryside	179	...	...	3.0	∞
170	79	Cr Nicholson	169	+2	...	3.0	22.0
125	27	Cundall	125	...	...	1.9	6.1
29½	15	Edmund Hidgs	28	...	0.3	1.5	...
205	178	Epwin	202	+2	7.0	3.1	21.9
82	52	Erith	82	...	6.3	8.5	...
1020	552	Ew Group	620	+9	...	2.8	17.2
244	97	Freeman Gps	224	...	5.0	2.8	15.6
50	36	Galliford	47	...	...	3.2	...
87	52	Gibbs & Dandy	82	...	...	2.9	...
1026	695	Gleeson (M)	1020	...	...	1.6	17.4
173½	75	Hawdon-Dunnet	166	...	...	1.1	35.5
51	28	Hawesson	50	...	...	1.1	36.5
430	173	Heyrod Wtn	420	...	3.0	4.0	...
145	57	Higgs & Hill	144	+1	2.5	2.3	...
38	26	Hsw Gp	38	...	...	2.1	...
28	15	Howard Hidgs	26	...	0.5	2.4	...
62	39	Hunck Johnson	62	...	1.6	2.6	...
35	12½	Hrvin	29	...	...	...	...
196	106	Laing (J)	192	+2	9.0	5.1	14.6
146	103	-do- A-Ns Cv Pf	141½	+1	...	5.7	...
146	55	Lr Cycleslides	140	...	4.6	4.4	...
23	20	Lovell (A)	23	...	...	...	6.8
265	180	Mainline	264	+2	5.5	3.9	24.1
215½	93	Manley	204	+4	4.3	3.6	19.8
143	91	Marshalls	137	-1	...	3.6	...
253	122	Maunders (J)	253	...	...	2.5	24.6
132	98	McAlpine (A)	126	...	6.5	5.9	47.8
44	25	McCarthy & S	44½	+½	0.5	0.9	...
369	252	Meyer Int	364	...	...	2.3	18.5
189½	62	Mowlem (J)	189	-4	4.0	3.0	...
191	51	NSM	182	-1	...	...	...
58	46	Neottler A	46	-2	...	3.9	21.5
198	106	Newman Tuke	191	...	...	4.4	25.5
361	197	Pershmoon	342	-7	8.6	3.1	34.9
26	9	Phoenix Timber	17	-1	...	...	...
1781½	1237½	Pochins	1781½	...	30.0	2.0	25.4
78	30	Pershing	180	+2	3.4	2.3	...
1099	555	RMC Gp	990	+6	...	2.5	19.5
117	79½	Raine Ind	98	+1	...	3.8	23.2
36	18	Ramsay	25	...	...	...	...
640	468	Redland	605	+16	28.0	3.9	21.7
180	95	Regalian	172	...	...	4.5	10.6
371	207	Rugby Group	339	+6	6.4	2.4	20.0
68	23	Rwlld-Rwe	59	...	...	0.5	...
178	68	Sharpe & Fisher	173	...	...	2.8	20.4
226	146	Sheffield Ind	205	+3	...	2.6	24.5
268	83	Sheriff Hidgs	260	...	...	1.8	34.7
66	46	Shorcon	107	...	5.2	6.3	24.3
265	196	Smart (J)	260	...	...	4.4	18.1
6½	1½	Smallcorn	3	...	...	...	...
204½	100	Tarmac	197	-2	5.5	3.5	...
234	134	Tay Homes	233	-1	...	3.1	28.8
183	63	Taylor Woodrw	169½	-½	1.0	0.5	...
738	455	Tilbury Dougl	720	+4	32.0	5.7	21.8
59	39	Turnr Hdlw	56	+½	0.4	0.9	...
370	168	Travis Perkins	362	+7	8.0	2.9	60.2
28	5½	Trencherwood	25½	+½	...	...	...
40	25	Try Group	28	...	1.0	3.6	9.9
42	25	Tilcon	41	...	0.2	1.5	...
112	41	Vibroplant	112	+2	2.5	2.5	40.3
220	80	Ward Hidgs	66	...	...	...	...
36	25	Watkinsone	36	+3	...	...	...
475	360	Wates Hidgs	460	...	...	3.3	19.8
3230	2230	Wimpey (G)	3230	...	50	3.0	22.8
67	3	Wiggins	6	...	...	...	...
366	263	Wilson Bowden	362	-5	...	2.0	26.1
254	142	Wilson (C)	252	-5	3.9	2.2	40.3
236	104	Wimpey G	230	-2	...	2.9	...
47	15	YRM	28	...	...	...	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

683	463	ADT	669	-9	...	...	...
288	198	Adam & Harvey	283	...	13.0	4.5	6.6
92	58	Air London	69	...	3.5	6.3	12.3
59	37	African Lakes	44	...	2.0	5.7	...
178	93	Asnl Sec	134	...	...	5.2	24.0
182	89	BET Ord	151½	...	...	1.9	61
143	41	BNB Res	143	-1	4.9	4.3	...
318	182	BPP	254	...	8.3	4.7	14.0
178	158	BSM	177	...	...	4.1	15.5
1975	1675	Barbour Index	1975	...	61.1	4.7	14.7
28	18	Bowssend	23	...	0.7	3.5	...
269	184	Brit Data Mgt	198	...	4.7	3.5	14.2
73	48	Brooks Service	62	...	...	1.2	19.1
109	86	CKT Gp	106	...	...	3.4	18.7
240	139½	Capita Group	209	...	...	1.7	20.6
57	31	Casket PLC	55½	...	...	3.0	21.3
183	115	Chiltern Capital	176	...	...	4.5	...
20	26	Chrisnic	16	...	...	...	...
409½	228	Chubb Sec	399	-1	...	1.6	24.8
132	93	Comaco	115	-1	...	1.7	20.5
44	29	Corp Services	42	...	...	...	...
91	20	Counts Cmbg	88	...	...	...	...
179	50	Dart	168	...	3.3	2.5	22.8
274	198	Davis Service	267	+3	...	3.0	19.4
130	85	EW Fenn	130	+5	...	4.4	14.9
32	11	Excalibur	29½	...	0.4	1.3	19.8
317	215	Expn	310	+7	...	2.1	27.0
289	174	Hogg Robinson	288	...	...	3.8	21.8
70	34	Holmes Protectn	70	-1	...	...	...
1096	122	Hunch Whamp	348½	-4½	...	1.4	24.7
2621½	975	ISS B DKF	2621½	+69½	...	0.8	18.1
637	475	Inchcape	586	-20	...	3.0	19.1
973	669	Johnson Clean	973	...	...	3.3	21.2
12	2½	Lep	7½	...	...	...	...
398	173	Mills Gp	357	+2	4.0	1.4	27.5
1234½	883½	Manpower	1187½	...	...	...	...
73	40½	Michael Page	73	...	1.8	3.1	31.0
279	112	Premier	132	...	8.0	8.9	4.2
52	2	Prime People	42	...	...	21.0	4.7
142	87	Promotion Alex	89	+1	...	2.2	9.7
423	357	RCO	385	...	15.3	5.1	∞
116	86	REA	109	...	2.0	2.3	...
125	43	Read Executive	124	...	...	...	...
156	105	Reliance Secs	155 †	-1	4.3	4.5	27.1
2995	1870	Rentokil	2965	+4	2.5	1.2	33.7
366	220	Robt & Nolan	363	...	...	2.6	24.9
399	310	Salvesen (C)	376 †	...	...	2.6	24.9
57	26	Scot Pickforda	56	...	0.8	1.5	17.8
17	3	Select Appts	16	...	...	...	...
1288	668	Serco Gp	1220	...	13.3	1.2	37.0
352	83	Sherwd Comps	108	-1	...	8.1	3.2
130	90	Stricklev	109	-1	...	3.4	34.9
355	240	Warner Howrd	330	...	8.0	2.5	17.2
45	27	Welpac	32	...	...	...	...
294	14	Wills Gp	286	-4	...	1.8	19.9

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

258	210	Allied Colloids	257 †	+6	...	2.1	23.7
1046	813	Amersham	1045	+3	...	1.7	30.1
7	1½	Anglo Ind	3½	...	...	...	...
£119½	£925	BASF Dfd	£116½	+£2½	...	...	...
323	199	BTP	343 †	+15	...	2.5	27.5
£143½	£101½	Bayer DM50	£142½	+£3½	...	2.5	...
178	105	Blagden	161	...	6.5	5.0	17.4
165	93	Brent Chems	152	+3	...	7.6	11.1
530	340	Br Bio-Tech	360	...	...	...	...
29	5	Cairn Gp	9½	+½	...	...	25.7
184	126	Canning (W)	183	...	9.5	5.0	22.0
608	421	Courtaulds	508	-½	...	3.5	12.7
376	228	Croda	372	+9	...	2.7	23.3
149	103	Doeflex	137	...	4.0	4.3	9.2
215	175	Ellis & Everard	205 †	+3	...	3.5	23.1
42½	15½	Exro Colour	35½	...	0.8	3.1	17.0
361	259	Halstead (J)	344	...	...	2.4	17.0
241	150	Hickson	192	+1	...	3.2	17.8
112½	88½	Hoechst	111½	+1½	...	3.0	...
229	157	Holliday Chem	167	...	...	2.5	17.2
825	608	ICI	781	+8	...	4.5	...
827	576	Laporte	821	+1	19.0	3.0	22.7
398	191	Leigh	382 †	+9	...	4.2	20.4
97½	36	MDM	57	...	...	...	...
2309½	1462½	Norsk Hydro	2265½	+40½	...	1.2	32.6
515	370	Paterson Zoch	515	+27	...	3.1	17.4
468	360	-do- 'A'	465	+33	...	3.4	15.7
296	193	Pgna	270 †	...	...	3.7	20.2
303	173	Perwin	285	+5	3.8	1.7	30.5

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price p	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
70	35	Smiths Instr	65	...	...	...	...
482	413	Wardle Storey	480	...	...	4.6	21.2
885	395	Wolstnhme P	885	...	17.0	3.5	20.7
355	330	Yorks Chem	355	+11	...	2.1	24.8
398	235	Yule Cato	398	...	...	2.4	19.5
869	599	Zotex	858	+5	...	4.3	47.7

DRAPERY, STORES

102	53	Alexon	98	+4	...	...	5.6
268	173	Alders	238	+6	...	3.3	17.0
418	267	Argos Plc	395	+8	...	2.4	16.2
118	85	Ashley Group	104	...	...	0.1	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	118	...	...	0.1	...
252	148	Aspinal	248 †	...	...	3.2	15.9
218	94	Austin Reed	194	-2	...	1.6	...
268	155	Bemberg	268	...	...	2.0	16.3
41	22	Blacks Lei.	39 †	...	...	2.1	...
241	138	Body Shop	238	+15	...	0.8	32.0
84	40	Boosey & Hawkes	84	...	...	1.6	21.1
46½	9	Bramp & Jackson	10	...	...	1.5	...
485	318	Brown (N)	485	+2	...	2.0	27.3
7	5½	Burton Gp	6½	-½	...	0.2	...
266	196	Clinton	263	...	...	2.1	33.7
508	388	Church	468	+8	12.5	3.2	44.0
282	192	Clinton Cards	168	-4	4.3	3.3	10.9
2072	1562	Combined Eng	2072	...	...	1.5	17.0
1818	1250	Courts Yhrsts	1818	+2	5.5	3.0	18.0
178	154	Cray Canada	168	...	...	1.8	15.7
1035	791	Dawtn Fornish	1035	+2	5.0	1.3	11.0
155	115	Dixons Rpbs	155	...	7.5	6.0	10.6
1150	88	Dolby Parry Ind	1150	+4½	...	2.1	17.1
1095	51½	Dewhirst (JB)	1095	...	0.8	0.9	34.5
288	189	Dixons Grp	282 †	...	...	3.6	...
24	4	EPA Gp	9	...	...	...	73.8
1090	670	Ego (Hirtenbtn)	980	...	16.0	1.6	17.3
77	7	Elect Term	77	...	...	1.7	43.1
208	108	Ernst	205	...	7.0	3.3	24.1
490	280	Fin Sc Dev	367	-3	13.0	3.8	17.2
78	48	Forminster	78 †	...	14.5	3.4	12.9
759	440	Northern Elec	752 †	+5	...	2.7	9.8
222	100	Nthn Ireland	220	+2	...	2.7	...
774	537	Norweb	773 †	+4	20.0	3.4	11.1
577	373	PowerGen	565	+11	...	2.5	14.8
487	285	Scottish Power	474½	+17½	...	3.1	17.5
403	218	Seabourd	402	+5	...	1.2	12.6
502	469	Sth Wales	498 †	...	...	3.8	10.4
712	626	Sth Western	708 †	...	...	3.5	25.6
734	606	Southern Elec	715 †	+7	...	3.6	9.5
698	455	Yorkshire Elec	698 †	+7	...	3.8	13.2

FINANCE, LAND

69½	50	Alden Finnc	53	...	1.0	2.4	11.2
151	67	BWD'a	150	...	3.4	3.8	23.4
118	26	Bath Plc	112	...	...	1.1	...
757	413	Caledonia	719	-1	...	2.7	36.7
2020	1575	Camellia	1955	...	...	2.0	9.2
563	343	Candover	560	+2	10.4	3.6	...

ELECTRICALS

187	134	ACT Group	178	-3	...	3.6	17.5
255	203	Arista	243 †	...	...	3.1	18.9
405	304	Ashtead	385	...	5.7	1.5	20.9
178	104	Alba	178	...	...	3.5	19.8
58	28	Alphameric	39	-2	...	...	...
58	22	Amstrad	48	...	...	1.4	...
1048	68	App Hldgs	1048	...	...	...	...
88	9	Arlen	9	...	...	...	...
88	35½	Aztec	89½	...	...	0.4	...
220	130	Atlan	209	...	...	1.4	32.9
260	224	Baxter Stores	238	...	...	4.3	17.0
64	40	Bowmaker	64	...	...	...	...
9	9	Brown & Tawse	9	...	...	...	...
1700	925	Burlandd	1035½	...	...	...	...
384	250	Bowthorpe	371 †	+1	...	2.1	24.6
1800	1250	CE	1650	+50	...	1.2	18.0
257	151½	-do- 'A' Voting	246	-1	...	1.6	26.5
98	65	Plessey	70	...	3.0	5.4	5.9
120	76	Premier	112	+1	...	2.9	23.7
248	91	Pilcon	248	+2	...	1.2	40.5
181	147	Shal Elect	218 †	+2	4.2	2.4	13.0
70	33	Sadamec	59	...	...	1.8	10.7
70	34	Sndhrst	58	...	1.2	2.1	15.1
109	61	Smi Time A	109	+10	...	3.6	20.1
35	15	Sirsa	26	...	...	...	...
659	362	Sage Gp	598 †	+1	...	2.4	15.9
320	232	Sanderson Elec	308 †	-1	9.9	3.6	14.8
89	42	Scanmatic	85	...	1.1	1.3	20.0
208	117	Scholes Gp	208	+3	...	3.0	20.9
375	220	Sema Gp	368	...	...	2.9	1.1
375	235	Servomex	257	...	...	5.9	19.4
48	29	Silverstone	46	...	...	...	...
81	30	Stanelltrade	77	...	2.4	4.0	∞
2675	1725½	TDK	2575	-40½	...	1.5	27.0
27	4½	TR Cmnths	15½	...	...	...	...
188	80	Telecomm	148	-2	0.8	0.7	24.4
1107	809	TECOM 2347	1107	...	...	3.7	28.3
152	96	Thorpe Fif	145	...	...	2.3	19.7
105	23	Total Systems	43	...	1.5	4.4	7.6
575	372	Tunstall	575 †	...	7.0	1.2	19.2
204	144	Unlitech	204	...	...	2.5	12.9
15	6	Vanity	12½	...	...	...	...
38	22	Vinten	37	...	0.3	1.7	15.8
634½	367	Vodafone	582 †	+3	...	1.4	28.5
698	368	Wolfe	470 †	+1	18.1	3.8	...
26	11	Western Selectn	25	...	0.5	2.0	16.1
314	225	Wholesale Fngs	314	+4	11.7	4.7	33.0

ELECTRICITY

993	389	East Midlands	683 †	+2	...	3.7	12.3
704	399	Eastern Elec	700 †	+4	...	3.6	13.3
488½	304	Hydro-Elec	465	+10	...	1.2	16.2
704	404	London Elec	704 †	+2	...	3.6	13.3
1000	705	Manweb	1000	+2	...	3.6	13.3
694	456	Midlands Elec	744	+3	...	3.6	11.6
510	373	National Power	485	+10	...	2.8	12.0
759	440	Northern Elec	752 †	+5	...	2.7	9.8
222	100	Nthn Ireland	220	+2	...	2.7	...
774	537	Norweb	773 †	+4	20.0	3.4	11.1
577	373	PowerGen	565	+11	...	2.5	14.8
487	285	Scottish Power	474½	+17½	...	3.1	17.5
403	218	Seabourd	402	+5	...	1.2	12.6
502	469	Sth Wales	498 †	...	...	3.8	10.4
712	626	Sth Western	708 †	...	...	3.5	25.6
734	606	Southern Elec	715 †	+7	...	3.6	9.5
698	455	Yorkshire Elec	698 †	+7	...	3.8	13.2

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

2554	1457	Amer Express	2151½	-48½	...	...	...
1134	835	Mendelsohn Ad	1026	-2	...	4.2	25.5
352	93	Investec	335	-1	...	1.5	...
317	164	Smithe Stnt	294½	-14	...	2.7	23.1
1254	1134	MAI	1203	-1	...	2.9	19.5
1250	1080	MAM	1180	-1	16.0	2.7	28.7
1830	1215	M & G	1315	+1	...	2.5	23.2
479	339	Smith New Ct	473	+1	...	1.8	4.5
92	45	Tyne Rdngs	81	+1	2.5	3.7	∞

FOODS

582	456	AB Food	581 †	+4	...	3.2	22.1
732	454½	ASDA Group	554	-3½	3.6	3.5	...
240	170	Associ					

Masterly putting keeps Els in front

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

THE distance between Ernie Els and his pursuers in the Dubai Desert Classic is widening. It was five strokes after the first round; it is six strokes after the second. What will it be after the third? Can the South African be caught? Men like Greg Norman, Sam Torrance and Paul Broadhurst, certainly hope so.

Bernard Darwin used to say that a player running away with a tournament was "turning it into a one-horse procession". Els is doing that. There are many players of whom you could say that a six-stroke lead after two rounds would not be sufficient for him to hold on and win. Many of the players think the opposite is true for Els. "He'll take some catching, won't he?" Jonathan Lomas said.

Els added a 69, three under par, to his opening 61 and thus



Norman: leading chase

is 14 under, as was Wayne Westner when he won last year. Once more, Els's driving left a little to be desired. Again though, he saved himself with his wonderfully smooth and slow putting stroke.

In time, Els may become as well-known in this department of the game as Bobby Locke, his countryman, was 40 years ago. When Els is putting at his best he makes it look as if he is doing no more than rolling the ball along a groove in the green, a groove that ends in the hole.

It helps that the greens on the Emirates course are as good as any the players experience in a season. "They're perfect," Broadhurst said after his 67. "The ball doesn't tend to wobble off line here. If you get the line right, the ball will go in. Ernie proved that."

Els disappeared to the practice ground after his round, intent on altering the position of the ball at address when he drives. "I am going to move it up a little in my stance," he said. "That might make my swing a little shorter and should give me a little more control." Els hit one really wild drive, a shot that ended among the palms, perhaps 25 yards off line, and it cost him his second bogey of the day.

A slight overswing, which can lead to a loss of control and thus inaccuracy, may be one of the few faults in Els's swing. Nick Price has suggested as much. "Personally, I don't like to see the club taken past parallel," Price says in the current issue of *Golf World*. "I think as the years progress, he'll learn to swing the club a little shorter."

Before he left to practise, Els said: "If I get my driving sorted out then I can attack the course tomorrow." This remark raised the eyebrows of a few players who wondered how he could have got to 14 under without attacking the course.

Torrance, Broadhurst and Gary Evans are six strokes behind. Torrance, who had a 67, appears to be a new man, with the beard he was beginning to grow at the world championship in Jamaica last month. He is using a metal driver and hitting the ball 30 yards further.

He stroked his new facial growth and said: "It keeps me cool. You don't see many Arabs without beards." Then the canny Scot in him came out. "Ernie is playing well," Torrance said, "but it's not pay-day yet."

Norman's 69 did not contain a bogey. He has had only one in 36 holes, which is better than Els, who has had three. Norman is seven shots behind the South African. He is quite capable of making up that ground with one of his famous charges but he had better get a move on. Time is running out.

It has already for Fred Couples. He had a 76 to go with his first-round 71 and missed the cut, as did Costantino Rocca, Ronan Rafferty and Mats Lanner, the winner of the Madeira Open. Couples, who was paid a handsome fee to appear in this event, must now move on to Phuket, an island off the coast of Thailand for next week's tournament. Perhaps he will have better luck there.

SCORES AFTER TWO ROUNDS

GB and Ireland unless stated

130: E Els (SA) 61, 69 136: S Torrance 69, 67; P Broadhurst 69, 67; G Evans 67, 69 137: G Norman (Aus) 68, 69, M Roe 66, 71; C Cassells 68, 69, G Orr 68, 69 138: W Westner (SA) 70, 68; K Eriksson (Swe) 69, 69; S Ames (Trin) 69, 69, C Montgomerie 71, 67 139: B Lane 69, 70; R Boxall 69, 70, R Wilkson 69, 70, J Lomas 66, 73; P Curry 70, 69; I Aoki (Japan) 67, 72.

140: D Curry 70, 70; T Watanabe (Japan) 70, 70; D W Basson (SA) 74, 66, M Sunesson (Swe) 69, 71; D Clarke 69, 71; R Claydon 69, 71 141: R Chapman 71, 70, P-U Johansson (Swe) 70, 71; A Forsbrand (Swe) 69, 72; J Payne 68, 73, M Davis 75, 66; O Karlsson (Swe) 69, 72; J Robinson 71, 70. 142: C Mason 71, 71; P Fowler (Aus) 72, 70, A Lyle 72, 70, F Regard (Fr) 70, 72; R Alvarez (Arg) 72, 70; F Lindgren (Swe) 70, 72. 143: S Struver (Ger) 74, 69; J Haeggman (Swe) 71, 72; P Fulke (Swe) 74, 69; P Mayo 70, 73, R Goosen (SA) 72, 71; J Hawkes (SA) 70, 73, M Mouland 71, 72, M A Jimenez (Sp) 72, 71, N Fasth (Swe) 70, 73

144: J Rystrom (Swe) 72, 72; P Baker 72, 72, D Gilford 70, 74; S Grappasonni (It) 71, 73; M A Martin (Sp) 72, 72, B Langer (Ger) 71, 73; S Tinning (Den) 70, 74; P Way 69, 75; D Roy 71, 73, A Hunter 72, 72.

GLYN KIRK



Tout and Paul intend emulating the legendary status of Nash and Dixon as they lead a four-man British crew

Make or break time for Paul

Chris Moore, in St Moritz, talks to Olympic hopefuls with an incredibly hard act to follow

For 30 years Nash and Dixon have ranked alongside the likes of Matthews and Finney, Trueman and Statham, and Torvill and Dean among the best of British sporting partnerships. Their win in the Olympic two-man bobsleigh event at Innsbruck in 1964 remains the only gold medal Britain has won outside the ice rink since the Winter Games were first staged in 1924.

Thirty years on, it is the clear ambition of the present British bobsleigh team captain, Lenny Paul, to put Tony Nash and Robin Dixon "to rest". Paul will be Mark Tout's brakeman again in the Zanussi-sponsored Great Britain I bob at the Olympics in Lillehammer next month.

"Whenever people talk about bobsleighing in this country, it's always Nash and Dixon," Paul said. "They will always be remembered as the guys who put British bobbing on the map. But that was 30 years ago. We know if we can come good in Lillehammer, it will be Tout and Paul people will remember in future." Two years ago at La Plagne, during the last Winter Olympics in Albertville, the present British champions were the surprise leaders of the two-man competition after the opening two runs.

However, they slipped back the following day to finish sixth following a mysterious fault with the time-clock, that has never been explained.

The delay, as they were about to start, led to a seven-minute hold-up. "If it had happened to the Swiss or Germans, you can be certain that all hell would have broken loose," Paul said. "But being British, we were expected to keep a stiff upper lip.

"Over a dozen sleds had gone down before us without any problems. Then, just as the leaders were waiting for the green light, a major fault with the mechanism occured. Don't ask us why. There's never been an answer."

As for the effect it had on the British crew, Paul puts it this way: "Imagine you are just about to take a penalty in an FA Cup final and the referee suddenly calls a halt and makes you hang around for seven minutes. The pressure mounts by the minute."

And so it did on Tout and Paul. "We had a hard hit into a corner at the start of that third run and I immediately started thinking I could see the gold medal slipping away. Before I realised it, I had lost track of where we were."

It is seven years since Tout's tenth place at St Moritz made him the first British winner of the Novices Trophy as the highest placed driver competing in his first world championships and the Army corporal, 33, can celebrate again on the same track this weekend when he goes into the final round of the World Cup tomorrow as leader of the four-man standings.

Last week in La Plagne, Tout underlined his good form by driving his four-man crew, made up by George Farrell and Jason Wing, to Britain's first silver medal in the European championships.

"There is no question that Mark has been driving as well as anyone this season," added Paul, who was the fourth-ranked 100-metre sprinter in Britain last summer with a best time of 10.32sec. So far this winter he has not been out of the top three start-times in the World Cup.

"Considering how we have had to beg, borrow and steal ice time, ours will be a true success story if we can get a medal. If we don't, then Nash and Dixon will live on for at least another four years."

Cooke misses out on triple triumph

ALAN Cooke went close to an unexpected treble of wins as England retained the men's team title at the Commonwealth table tennis championships with a 5-3 victory over Canada in Hyderabad yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). England's women lost 3-1 to Hong Kong, the holders, in their final.

Cooke, the 1989 Commonwealth champion, raised hopes that he might win back the individual title by the manner of his victories over Francis Trudel and Joe Ng and his fine display against Johnny Huang, the world No 14 and top seed for the men's singles that start today. Huang trailed 15-11 and 19-17 in the final game before taking it 21-19.

England's women could feel pleased with their efforts against a Hong Kong side rated among the top four in the world. Alison Gordon went close to beating Chan Tan Lui, the world No 23, while Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt won their doubles.

Piper challenges again

BOXING: Nicky Piper, of Wales, moves back up to light-heavyweight to challenge for the World Boxing Organisation title in Cardiff tonight (Srikumar Sen writes). Piper has failed in one attempt to lift a world championship — the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title, against Nigel Benn, 14 months ago — but claims that he has a better chance of succeeding against Leonzer Barber, of the United States.

Barber, who trains at the Kronk gym in Detroit, beat Tom Collins, of Leeds, in 1991 to win the title but has not met many high-class opponents. However, provided he has had no trouble making the weight, he should be too experienced for Piper.

Brake's title chance

RACKETS: Peter Brake, fresh from his first big final, the US Open, starts favourite for the Henderson British Professional Championship at Malvern this weekend. Brake, 29, who has a valve in his windpipe following a childhood tracheotomy, extended the world's top professional, Neil Smith, to four games in New York. With James Male, the world champion, taking a break, the dangers to Brake may come from the younger generation, such as Guy Barker, Ally Robinson, Matt Windows and Alex Smith-Bingham, recent winner of the British under-24 championship.

Louis-Lane leads seeds

BADMINTON: The English seeding committee has overturned both the national rankings and the domestic grand prix points standings in making Suzanne Louis-Lane the No 1 seed for the English national championships at Norwich from February 11 to 13. Louis-Lane, the title holder, has been placed above Joanne Muggeridge, the England No 1 who also heads the points list on the new seven-tournament British circuit. Muggeridge, however, was beaten the last time she faced Louis-Lane, at the Friends Provident Hampshire Open three weeks ago.

Britons overlooked

ICE HOCKEY: Scotland play England at Murrayfield today in the 51st meeting between the countries. When the fixture was restored two years ago, there was the kind of intensity one would expect, but last year's game (a 5-4 win for Scotland) was curiously low-key, perhaps because of the inclusion of Canadian-born players. Each side has three again, an opportunity being missed to give international experience to six more British youngsters. Alex Dampier, the Great Britain coach, will learn little new from a game in which Scotland are marginal favourites.

Lewis tempts McCall

BOXING: The Lennox Lewis camp has made a $3 million offer to Oliver McCall for a summer bout. The Don King-promoted McCall is the leading contender for Lewis's World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title and the offer is designed to secure the bout for the last week in July or first week in August. Lewis is hoping, meanwhile, for an acceptance to clear the way for his voluntary defence against Phil Jackson, of Florida, in Reno, Nevada on May 6. But the WBC has still to sanction the Lewis-Jackson bout and are insisting that Lewis meets McCall first.

Koloto receives ban

RUGBY LEAGUE: Emosi Koloto, the Widnes forward and New Zealand international, was suspended for three matches at a disciplinary hearing in Leeds yesterday. He was dismissed after a "forearm-to-the-head" challenge during his comeback game for Widnes reserves against Castleford eight days ago. Wally Gibson, of Oldham, was banned for two matches after a high tackle broke the jaw of Andy Thompson, the Hull Kingston Rovers second row forward, ruling him out for the rest of the season. Rochdale Hornets yesterday signed David Fell, the Salford utility back.

Davy Blake in line for repeat victory

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BEEL

DAVY Blake, the winner of the 1993 Times Rising Stars qualifier at Kelso, follows the same path when he begins his campaign at the Jedforest point-to-point today.

After his impressive win in the restricted on this course, he subsequently won twice at Kelso. This afternoon he goes in the confined race as a preface to runs in the Cessford Hunter Chase at Kelso next Friday and The Times qualifier on the same course in a month's time.

Caroline Turner liked what she saw of the Scottish Borders last year so the 20-year-old New Zealander has returned to work at Clive Storey's stable. She has her first point-to-point ride on Swift Flight in the maiden. The mare made little show on her only appearance last season so confidence is not as high as for her stable companion, Royal Jester, to be ridden by Storey in the open.

Eleven months after breaking his leg, Robert Alner returns to race riding and has a good chance of a double at the Hursley Hambledon, where he rides Mr Murdock in the open and Roving Report in the adjacent. Roving Report is then likely to run in The Times qualifier at Wincanton on Thursday week.

The maiden race here has been split three ways making eight races in all. In the first division, Lewesdon Hill should get Peter King off the mark. At the Army meeting a fortnight ago, Lewesdon Hill was finishing fastest of all only for the post to come too soon.

Tim McCarthy's raids on East Anglia from his Surrey stable have proved successful in the last two weeks but he turns his attentions to Tweseldown today. He has fine prospects of success with Rousillon To Be in the Club Members' race.

Nigel Bloom, having recovered from a schooling accident last Sunday, will be fit to ride Melton Park in the Dunston open. Nobody who went to the corresponding meeting last season could have predicted that the maiden race winner would go on to become the champion horse of 1993, as Melton Park did.

He will, however, have a difficult task today with Simon Sporborg's Over The Edge in opposition. This former Irish hunter chase winner was a fine second in a top-class Land Rover qualifier at Larkhill a fortnight ago.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Dunston Harriers, Ampton 4 miles north of Bury St Edmunds (first race 12.00); Hursley Hambledon, Badbury Rings 5m SE of Blandford (12.00); Jedforest, Friars Haugh, 1m W of Kelso (12.30). Tweseldown Club, Tweseldown 3m W of Aldershot (12.00).

AYR

THUNDERER

1.25 Seven Towers. 1.55 Killula Chief. 2.25 Five To Seven. 2.55 Tartan Tyrant. 3.25 Palacegate King. 3.55 Precipice Run. 4.25 Rhossili Bay.

GOING: SOFT SIS

1.25 BARR NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,956: 2m 6f) (14 runners)

1	4121	MAJOR BELL 8 (F,5) A Whillans 5-11-12	M Moloney	
2	5154	BELLS HILL LAD 17 (D,5) J Barclay 7-11-5	A Dobbin	
3	3-12	SEVEN TOWERS 92 (S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5 Mr M Buckley (5)		
4	P	BEN RHYDDING 140 W Kemp 7-10-12	S McDougall (7)	
5	22-P	CARSON CITY 28 Mrs M Reveley 7-10-12	R Hodge	
6	2/40	KIRKTON GREY 30 C Parker 7-10-12	S Storey	
7	5	LAST REFUGE 15 T Carr 5-10-12	L O'Hara	
8	0044	MAVRIK 28 L Lungo 5-10-12	T Reed	
9		PETER D Whillans 5-10-12	P Williams (5)	
10		PRINCE ROSSINI L Lungo 5-10-12	F Perratt (5)	
11	6-05	RUSSIAN CASTLE 44 J Wade 5-10-12	K Jones	
12	6000	FINE OAK 9 D Robertson 7-10-7	Mr D Robertson	
13	-254	PAR-BAR 3 (B) D Eddy 5-10-7	M Dwyer	
14	5303	THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 9 G Richards 6-10-7	B Hardley (7)	

7-2 Major Bell, 4-1 Seven Towers, 9-2 Bells Hill Lad, 5-1 The Whirlie Weevil, 13-2 Carson City, 8-1 Kirkton Grey, 16-1 others.

1.55 MASON ORGANISATION PATTERN NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £10,217: 3m 1f) (3)

1	11P1	GLASSIC CONTACT 22 (C,F,6) N Mason 8-11-5	J Callaghan	
2	6510	CONCERT PAPER 5 (S,5) R O'Leary 10-11-5	K Dalton	
3	11U1	KILLULA CHIEF 106 (F,6,5) J O'Shea 7-11-5	M Dwyer	

4-5 Classic Contact, 11-8 Killula Chief, 6-1 Concert Paper.

2.25 LADY ISLE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,103: 2m) (13)

1	0U	CALL THE SHOTS 2 J Wade 5-11-5	K Jones	
2	F2	FIVE TO SEVEN 9 C Thornton 5-11-5	D Wilkinson	
3	-050	MARCU-PIERRE 44 J Barclay 5-11-5	S Turner	
4	30-	NICHOLAS PLANT 317 L Lungo 5-11-5	T Reed	
5	P0-0	WEST AUCKLAND 60 N Chamberlain 5-11-5	C Grant	
6	2	PRINCESS MAXINE 15 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 Mr M Buckley (5)		
7	005-	WINSOME GRAIN 373 Mrs L Perratt 5-11-0	P Williams (5)	
8	2	NETHERBY SAID 18 M Wane 4-10-9	C Dennis	
9	5P4	REBEL KING 9 M Reavey 4-10-9	A Dobbin	
10	F0	WEAVER GEORGE 8 N Chamberlain 4-10-9	J Supple (5)	
11		AMERIQUE 145F D Whillans 4-10-4	M Moloney	
12		CROMARTY 102F J J O'Neill 4-10-4	M Dwyer	
13	0	FAIRFOLD 8 J Bidgett 4-10-4	E McGrath	

2-1 Five To Seven, 3-1 Princess Maxine, 7-2 Cromarty, 6-1 Netherby Said, 14-1 Rebel King, 16-1 Weaver George, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Mason, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 29 from 81, 35.8%; C Thornton, 5 from 14, 35.7%; G Richards, 51 from 240, 21.3%; M Barnes, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: G Willkinson, 4 winners from 11 rides, 36.4%; Mr M Buckley, 5 from 16, 31.3%; J Supple, 3 from 10, 30.0%; N Doughty, 33 from 128, 25.8%; A Dobbin, 9 from 49, 18.4%.

2.55 VULMIDAS TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,566: 3m 1f) (5)

1	2-25	SHOON WIND 57 (CD,F,6,5) M Hammond 11-12-0	C Grant	
2	2-F1	TARTAN TYRANT 30 (CD,6,5) G Richards 8-11-9	N Doughty	
3	4FF2	RIFLE RANGE 43 (CD,6,5) J J O'Neill 11-11-8	M Dwyer	
4	-846	CAROUSEL ROCKET 28 (C,F,6,5) M Hammond 11-10-0	D Bentley (5)	
5	/F46	GREY MINSTREL 8 (C,G,5) Denys Smith 10-10-0	B Storey	

4-6 Tartan Tyrant, 4-1 Shoon Wind, 13-2 Rifle Range, 6-1 Carousel Rocket, 10-1 Grey Minstrel.

3.25 SKELDON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,327: 2m) (9)

1	22-2	VALIANT DASH 15 (D,F,6,5) J Goldie 8-11-10	F Perratt	
2	-243	PALACEGATE KING 31 (D,5) A Whillans 5-11-7	P Williams	
3	P121	ARAGON AYR 17 (D,5) P Monteith 6-11-5	A Dobbin	
4	3030	ALL WELCOME 8 (CD,BF,F,6,5) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-3	G Lee (5)	
5	6P/0	CANDID LAD 18 (C) M Wane 7-10-12	D Bentley	
6	0602	WAKE UP 8 (D,F,6,5) R O'Leary 7-10-9	K Darley (5)	
7	1/P0	HUSO 8 (D,F) P Haslam 6-10-7	S Taylor	
8	205-	NIGHT OF MADNESS 315 (D,F) G Richards 7-10-5	B Harding (3)	
9	0321	THE PREMIER EXPRES 8 (D,5) W Bentley 4-10-5	D J Moffatt	

7-2 Aragon Ayr, 4-1 The Premier Expres, 5-1 Palacegate King, 11-2 Valiant Dash, 6-1 All Welcome, 7-1 Wake Up, 10-1 Night Of Madness, 20-1 Candid Lad, Huso.

3.55 SORN NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,827: 2m) (5)

1	4001	SEON 7 (D,F,6,5) W Bentley 8-11-11	T Reed	
2	2131	SHELAS HILLCREST 33 (S) N Mason 8-11-5	J Supple (5)	
3	2-1F	SUNSET ROCK 30 (D,BF,6,5) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-4	M Dwyer	
4	34P2	PRECIPICE RUN 7 (S,5) G Richards 9-10-13	N Doughty	
5	5232	ZARSHAD 9 B Mactaggart 8-10-8	A Merrigan	
6	-00F	PIT PONY 9 (C,D,6,5) D Robertson 10-10-0	R Hodge	
7	-444	GIPSY RAMBLER 9 (D,5) N Chamberlain 9-10-0	C Grant	
8	00-P	BITOFARATTIER 105 R Goldie 6-10-0	A Lamacchi (3)	

9-4 Precipice Run, 7-2 Seon, 4-1 Sunset Rock, 5-2 Shelias Hillcrest, 7-1 Zarshad, 20-1 others.

4.25 LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,838: 2m) (15)

1	4-	ADDINGTON BOY 336 G Richards 6-11-10	B Hardley (7)	
2		AFRICAN GOLD L Lungo 6-11-10	I Jardine	
3		ANKOR GOLD 6 Richards 6-11-10	N Leach	
4		HAGGLE Miss L Perratt 5-11-10	P Williams (5)	
5		JIMMY WAG L Lungo 6-11-10	Mr C Ewart	
6		KERNEL GRAIN D Moffatt 5-11-10	D J Moffatt	
7	4	NAUGHTY FUTURE 77 J J O'Neill 5-11-10	A Roche	
8	5-	OAT COUTURE 292 L Lungo 6-11-10	F Perratt	
9	2-2	RHOSSILI BAY 113 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10	Mr M Reveley	
10		VAN DER GRASS M Barnes 5-11-10	A Dobbin	
11		CRAGGE HAMBLER D Robertson 5-11-5	Mr D Robertson	
12		OUR WILMA Mrs D Thompson 5-11-5	R McSmith (7)	
13		SEABURN N Mason 4-11-0	J Supple (5)	
14		TASHREEF J Bidgett 4-11-0	A Lamacchi (3)	
15		WHO IS EDWINAME D Eddy 4-11-0	D Bentley (5)	

13-8 Rhossili Bay, 4-1 Naughty Future, 5-1 Addington Boy, 12-1 Oat Couture, 16-1 Amer Gold, Seaburn, 20-1 others.

☐ Coral have promoted Golden Nashwan to 10-1 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas. The Peter Chapple-Hyam trained colt, a winner at Doncaster in October, was cut from 14-1.

THUNDERER

1.20 Samson-Agonistes. 1.50 Kissavos. 2.20 Awesome Power. 2.50 World Traveller. 3.20 Jolly Swagman. 3.50 Modest Hope.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.20 CRUSADER CLAIMING STAKES (£2,512: 5f) (7 runners)

1	00-0	AUGHRD 7 (V,D,F,6,5) T Casey 8-8-12	L Dettori 5	
2	4-45	ANOTHER EPISODE 12 (CD,F,6,5) J Berry 5-8-10	P Roberts (7) 2	
3	-122	SAMSON-AGONISTES 12 (CD,BF,F,6,5) P Evans 8-8-10	A Clark 4	
4	4-63	TEE-EMM 11 (C,6) P Howling 4-8-8	Paul Eddery 1	
5	31-0	NOT SO GENEROUS 19 (CD,F,6) W G M Turner 4-8-5	P McCabe (5) 7	
6	230-	MARCHMAN 117 A Foster 4-8-4	D Holland 6	
7	50-4	SERIOUS HURRY 11 (CD,F,5) C C Elsey 6-8-4	B Doyle (3) 3	

5-2 Samson-Agonistes, 7-2 Another Episode, 4-1 Aughrd, 5-1 Not So Generous, 6-1 Serious Hurry, 8-1 Tee-Emm, 16-1 Marchman.

1.50 COMET HANDICAP (£3,054: 7f) (9)

1	1-13	ISLAND KNIGHT 7 (CD,6) M Ryan 5-10-0	P McCabe (5) 4	
2	324-	ZEBOIM 61 (V,C,F,6) W Muir 8-9-8	Kim McDonnell 1	
3	445-	GALLERY ARTIST 29 (C,D,6,5) R Guest 8-9-1	S Elliott (7) 3	
4	46-0	KISSAVOS 14 (CD,F,6) C C Elsey 8-9-0	T Quinn 6	
5	000-	DOORNAJ 88 C Britain 5-9-11	B Doyle (3) 5	
6	00-4	HONEY VISION 11 (B) G Eden 5-8-4	J Weaver 7	
7	000-	ABSO 122 (H,D,F,6) Mrs A Jessy 5-8-1	N Adams 9	
8	00-0	BILL MOON 15 (C,D,F,6) P Felgate 8-8-0	Stephen Davies (5) 2	
9	0-52	MIDLAND 16 (D,BF,F) D Wilson 4-7-13	J Quinn 8	

7-2 Midland, 4-1 Honey Vision, 5-1 Island Knight, 6-1 Kissavos, 8-1 Doornaj, Zeboim, 10-1 Bill Moon, Gallery Artist, 25-1 Abso.

2.20 CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES (£3,132: 1m 2f) (13)

1	3-13	AWESOME POWER 21 (CD,BF,6) J Hills 8-9-4	A Clark 8	
2	-131	POP TO STANS 5 (C,F,6) J Pearce 5-9-4	M Wigham 11	
3	3-20	JEROBOAM 11 (6) Allan Smith (Bel) 5-9-1	E Vaa Reykhaven 3	
4	306-	OUR EDDIE 29 B Gubby 5-8-12	S Raymell (5) 13	
5	0-64	CASTLE BIDDER 11 (V,6) Allan Smith (Bel) 5-8-6	L Dettori 12	
6	004-	WRETS 29 (B,F) R Baker 5-8-5	J Williams 2	
7	P/0-	WIDE SUPPORT 118 (D,6) A Moore 5-8-5	P McCabe (5) 5	
8	0-0	ELEANORDEMONTFORT 15 T Naughton 4-8-4	Paul Eddery 10	
9	20-0	RACHELLY 14 C Wildman 4-8-1	C Rutter 7	
10	00-0	GALLOP TO GLORY 14 (6) S Dow 4-8-0	N Adams 4	
11	0/	O K KEALY 161 P Mitchell 4-8-0	G Bardwell 1	
12	00-5	SHARP IMP 21 (B) R Flower 4-8-0	M Baird (7) 9	
13	0-53	BOLD MELODY 7 (F,6) P Haslam 5-7-12	J Quinn 9	

7-4 Awesome Power, 5-2 Pop To Stans, 4-1 Jeroboam, 7-1 Our Eddie, 12-1 Rachelly, 16-1 Bold Melody, 20-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 3.50 Witchway North.

2.50 CHALLENGER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,085: 1m) (6)

1	401-	PRINCE DANZIG 81 (CD,6) D Murray Smith 8-7	T Quinn 5
2	214-	WORLD TRAVELLER 52 (B,C,6) W O'Gorman 8-2	Emma O'Gorman (5) 3
3	11-3	QUEENS STROLLER 22 (6) C C Elsey 8-10	J Quinn 6
4	4-31	LEVIATHAN MYSTERY 11 (C,6) C Wildman 8-7	C Rutter 4
5	62-1	AKABUSI 22 (6) Lord Huntingdon 8-6	L Dettori 1
6	203-	LADY HIGHFIELD 59 M Ryan 8-3	P McCabe (5) 2

2-1 Akabusi, 3-1 World Traveller, 9-2 Leviathan Mystery, 6-1 others.

3.20 CHIEFTAIN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,873: 1m) (9)

1		CLASSICAL ROCK P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	S Whitworth 9	
2	3-4	JOLLY SWAGMAN 22 (BF) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	L Dettori 2	
3	04-	SLOPES 42 T Naughton 9-0	Paul Eddery 4	
4	2-6	WILD ACE 12 (BF) N Graham 9-0	J Weaver 3	
5		YOUNG LUCKY 4 C Wildman 9-0	C Rutter 7	
6	00-3	CHANTELYS 7 M Ryan 8-9	P McCabe (5) 1	
7	4-30	GROVE PRIMROSE 12 M Tompkins 8-9	T Quinn 6	
8	0-0	LITTLEMISSMISCHIEF 7 Allan Smith (Bel) 8-9	Paul Smith 5	
9	00-	SARASOMA 45 R Baker 8-9	J Williams 8	

2-1 Wild Ace, 7-2 Jolly Swagman, 4-1 Grove Primrose, 6-1 Chantelys, 8-1 others.

3.50 CENTURIAN HANDICAP (£3,080: 1m 4f) (12)

1	100Y	NORNAX LAD 309J (D,F,6) M Meade 6-10-0	D Holland 8
2	625-	SANTANA LADY 88 (F,6) M Heaton-Ellis 5-9-11	Stephen Davies (3) 1
-3	2-33	DASHING FELLOW 7 (CD,BF,F,6) Mrs L Piggott 6-9-10	G Milligan (7) 3
4	-633	MODEST HOPE 1 (CD,BF,F,6) B Richmond 7-9-0	Alex Greaves 7
5	-210	OLYMPIC WAY 7 (D,6) W G M Turner 5-8-12	T Sprake 12
6	0-01	SPECIAL RISK 11 (C,6) R Akehurst 4-8-9	Paul Eddery 4
7	040-	RUN TO AU BON 122 A Moore 4-8-6	N Adams 5
8	5-21	DON'T DROP BOMBS 7 (CD,6) P Felgate 5-8-4	L Dettori 9
9	02-1	COME LANE 25 (C,F,6) B Gubby 8-7-12	J Quinn 10
10	00-6	WITCHWAY NORTH 28 (V) H Collingridge 4-7-7	C Hawksley (7) 11
11	-606	MELISO 11 C Wildman 4-7-7	G Bardwell 2
12	00-0	BARCHAM 7 (F) D Wilson 7-7-7	D Wright (5) 6

3-1 Don't Drop Bombs, 4-1 Special Risk, 5-1 Come Lane, 8-1 Modest Hope, 9-1 Dashing Fellow, Olympic Way, 12-1 Run To Au Bon, Santana Lady, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Berry, 15 winners from 50 runners, 25.4%; W O'Gorman, 34 from 155, 21.9%; Lord Huntingdon, 18 from 84, 21.4%; D Murray Smith, 14 from 70, 20.0%; R Guest, 6 from 31, 19.4%; C C Elsey, 22 from 123, 17.1%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 27 winners from 81 rides, 33.3%; Emma O'Gorman, 35 from 158, 22.8%; J Weaver, 8 from 36, 22.2%; Alex Greaves, 12 from 61, 19.7%; T Quinn, 58 from 305, 19.0%; Stephen Davies, 9 from 53, 15.1%.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Wolverhampton (AW), Plumpton.
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW), Nottingham, Sedgefield.
WEDNESDAY: Leicester, Southwell (AW), Windsor.
THURSDAY: Edinburgh, Lingfield Park, Towcester.
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW), Kelso, Lingfield Park (AW).
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW), Chepstow, Sandown Park, Stratford, Wetherby, †Wolverhampton (AW).
Flat meetings in bold *† denotes evening meeting*

هكذا من الأصل

Mole Board carries stable flag in Champion Hurdle trial at Cheltenham

Old routine reaps deserved reward

Richard Evans meets a trainer delighted to have emerged from the shadow of despair

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Jim Old, left, with Mole Board, his Cheltenham festival hope, and the jockey, Carl Llewellyn, after a searching gallop

A vicious wind sent clouds scudding across the early morning sky toward Oxford as half a dozen pairs of horses thundered up the steepest of all-weather gallops. Jim Old, stopwatch in hand, examined their every stride from high on the Marlborough Downs and had reason to be satisfied.

"This is what you might call our back to basics," he said, leaning into the gale and looking at the dark, undulating vein carved into the hillside. "The whole core of what we do is concentrated around this. We don't think they're fit unless they can come up here three times, get to the top of the hill in 60-odd seconds and keep running."

Mole Board, who reappears at Cheltenham this afternoon, clocked 57sec second time around. Arfer Mole, his highly promising half-brother, and the well-handicapped Soothfast, also Cheltenham bound today, were just as swift.

Old is the antithesis of the perceived idea of a racehorse trainer. No sharp suits, coiffured hair, fancy ties or Gucci shoes for him. Instead, a moth-eaten hat is clamped down over a head of unkempt ginger tufts that appear to enjoy only rare appointments with a comb. Add to that a weather-beaten face, and a set of well-used waterproofs, and Old resembles a trawlerman heading out of harbour to tackle an angry sea.

Appearances, of course, are deceptive; Old is the epitome of a working trainer. Apart from being one of the most talented, he also happens to be one of the nicest in a profession often riddled by the habits of the viper. The affection in which he is held has been cemented by his stoic refusal to submit to the worst fates that racing's gods could throw at him. Through despair and gloom, Old kept smiling. Now, racing is smiling back as he enjoys the success his talents demand.

Old worked for Neville Dent, Fred Rimell and Toby Balding and rode half a dozen winners as an amateur before he took out a licence to train in 1972. From a ragbag collection of horses, he was soon producing winners, a lot of winners. The increased demand for his services, combined with shortage of space, prompted a move to a farm at Dundry, near Bristol. For one season, all was well. Just what was responsible for his horses then becoming so disappointing is arguable, but Old has no doubts. "In those days, nobody, but nobody, knew about the virus, particularly the vets. It wiped us out."

The effects were not immediately apparent to the outside world but Old knew his string was firing for much of the time at only half-power. Twenty winners should have been 40; instead of 30 winners, another season produced around 15. Gradually, owners and horses drifted away. After eight mainly miserable years, he managed to get planning permission for some houses and was able to move on to Ditcheat, near Shepton Mallet.

His three seasons there were a respite as he took stock, kept a team of owners together, and, despite one flu-ridden year, enjoyed some success. In the summer of 1991, he bought his present 280-acre farm perched on top of the downs and quickly set about installing all-weather and grass gallops.

Old has not looked back. His first season produced 21 winners from just 75 outings to the racecourse. The following campaign the strike-rate was only marginally lower at 21 per cent; this season, it is nudging 30 per cent. "We have some gorgeous horses this year. We started with 21 unraced animals and that does not include ex-Flat horses."

As he watched his string move to a steep hill, where they enjoyed a couple of canters, Old reflected on the dark years. "You can't put into words how soul destroying it is, whether mentally or financially. If you are dedicated to racing and that is all you want to do, you have to walk about with a smile on your face when you can't train a winner, knowing that everyone is saying 'look at that idiot'. You just have to smile sweetly, take a lot of flak and carry on."

Mole Board may be 12 now but he has run only 20 times and has been backed for the Champion Hurdle. "It may be wishful thinking to suggest he is still good enough for the Champion Hurdle but it is a shocking year so we'll see."

Old has high hopes for Arfer Mole, a recent Cheltenham winner, and the Sun Alliance Hurdle is the objective. "He is starting to grasp the business end of things and you will see a much better horse next time he runs."

Suddenly, the prospects seemed to loom almost too large. "Big days tend to go awfully wrong. That is the difference between me and people like David Elsworth or Nigel Twiston-Davies. They fear nothing; I fear everything and take a lot of psyching to get out of my corner."

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.00 Winter Forest — 2.40 Stunning Stuff
1.35 Corrouge — 3.10 Bo Knows Best
2.05 Good For A Laugh — 3.45 Mr Woodcock
4.10 Call Equinams

Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 GNOME'S TYCOON (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES ON CHASE COURSE) SIS

1.00 BREWERS JUVENILE HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £4,224 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

1 311212 REGAL AURA 22 (D,G) (G Bradley) G Moore 11-6 N Bentley (3) 97
2 12 WINTER FOREST 14 (D,SF,S) (Classic Forest) R Hollinshead 11-5 W Marston 89
3 0 ACANTHUS 10 (B) J Wilson) Miss C Wilson 11-0 T Eley (5) –
4 510 ATHERTON GREEN 42 (D,G) (Atherton and Green) J Glover 11-0 P Niven 91
5 CALANDAK VSF (G Lockerbie) A Foster 11-0 G McCourt –
6 5102 DANIEL DANCER 9 (D,S) (Mrs A Carey) A Bailey 11-0 N Mann 88
7 P DYAB 42 (J Lee Services Ltd) C Williams 11-0 A Carroll –
8 P INFANTRY BLEN 7 (M) (C Fairs) G Oldroyd 11-0 P Midgley (5) –
9 LIVONIAN 126F (The Sherwood Connection) D Sherwood 11-0 J Osborne –
10 0 PRIMO FIGLIO 75 (B) (Townside C C Racing Club) Miss L Siddall 11-5 A Thornton (3) 62
11 R60011 STAR MARKET 17 (D,G,S) (Victoria Markets Ltd) Mrs P Joynes 11-0 T Wall 72
12 02 STRICTLY PERSONAL 17 (Mrs S Smith) M Williamson 11-0 J Harvey 84
13 TEJANO GOLD 133F (F Bradley) P Bradley 11-0 W Humphreys –
14 11 DON'T FORGET MARIE 12F (G,S) (C M Pope) A Bailey 10-9 A Procter (5) 74
15 DON'T JUMP BOP (Mrs G Wentworth) M Pomfret 10-9 R Campbell –
16 MAMARA REEF 135F (C Fenwick-Derrys Smith) 10-9 P Waggott (5) –
17 0 RANDRA 10 (Mr Jones) W Jones 10-5 T Jenks (5) –

BETTING: 4-5 Winter Forest, 7-1 Regal Aura, 8-1 Dream Express, 10-1 Cathcastle, Livonian, 14-1 others.

1993: DISSIMULATEUR 11-0 J Osborne (3-1 fav) D Chapman 12 ran

1.35 RIVER DON NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £6,535: 2m 4f) (8 runners) C4

1 11 SEEKIN CASH 28 (D,S) (Seekin Homes Ltd Mackem) C Egerton 5-11-10 J Osborne 84
2 BRAVE AND TENDER (Mrs A Fenwick) Miss D Durham) J Johnson 5-11-6 K O'Brien –
3 1F221 CORROUGE 7 (G,S) (M Tabor) D Thompson-Bowes 5-11-6 D Bridgwater (5)
4 6016 MARCHWOOD 26 (S) (E Hellawell) P Queensbury 7-11-6 G McCourt 67
5 13-111 NIRVANA PRINCE 54 (F) (D Portman) B Preece 5-11-6 T Wall 75
6 4F-1122 SHARPIE 15 (D,BF,G) (P Saunders-Brown) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-6 P Niven 79
7 131114 WESTHOLME 14 (C,BF,G,S) (C Eastaugh) M H Easterby 6-11-6 L Wyer 87
8 46-5632 TITIAN GIRL 22 (B) (R Wilkinson) Miss L Siddall 5-11-1 A Thornton 54

BETTING: 4-5 Corrouge, 7-2 Seekin Cash, 6-1 Nirvana Prince, 10-1 Westholme, Sharpie, 14-1 others.

1993: HURDY 6-11-6 Mr A Thornton (3-1) J Atkinson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

SEEKIN CASH best Tynemouth 12 (4 course hurdle at Newton, 3m 111yd, soft). CORROUGE best Top Spec 4L at novice hurdle at Kempton, 2m 5f, good to soft; NIRVANA PRINCE best Aintree Lucas 7L at novice hurdle at Ludlow, 2m 5f 110yd, good to heavy; SHARPIE 7L 2nd at 15 to 16 You Say Yes at handicap hurdle at Edinburgh (3m, good to soft); WESTHOLME best Kingcon Kid 2L at handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.

Selection: CORROUGE

2.05 MANSION HOUSE HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,842: 2m 110yd) (5 runners) C4

1 4P-2214 YOUNG SNUFFY 42 (D,F,G,S) (M Ebsworth) G Sherwood 10-12-0 J Osborne 94
2 0-53/F2 HOWE STREET 49 (D,F,G,S) (W Stead) J Johnson 11-10-11 K O'Brien 95
3 2P-3123 SHU FLY 1 (D,F,G) (Seven Five Partnership) G Broad 10-10-1 Jacqui Oliver (5)
4 411321 GOOD FOR A LAUGH 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 10-10-0 Mr D Parker (7) 96
5 335-113 JUST FRANKIE 60 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs Susan Watson) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-0 L Wyer 93

Long handicap: Good For A Laugh 9-11, Just Frankie 9-9

BETTING: 5-2 Young Snuffy, 3-1 Howe Street, 7-2 Good For A Laugh, 4-1 Just Frankie, 5-1 Shu Fly.

1992: TRIPYLARD 5-10-9 J Kavanagh (5-1) N Henderson 8 ran.

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG POKEY beat Wonder Man 21 in 5-runner handicap chase at Newcury (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start. HOWE STREET fell 2nd of 3 in Kelebatic at handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) SHU FLY 28L clear of 6 to Egypt Mill Prince at handicap chase at Wincanton (3m, good to soft) yesterday. GOOD FOR A LAUGH beat Clay Country 1¼ in 3-runner handicap chase at Haydock (2m, soft). JUST FRANKIE completed double, beat Computer Ace 4½ in 6-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good to soft).

Selection: YOUNG POKEY

2.40 GREAT YORKSHIRE CHASE
(Handicap: £19,009: 3m) (10 runners) C4

1 14226-1 FRAGRANT DAWN 49 (F,G,S) (D & S Mercer) M Pipe 10-12-0 J Lower 94
2 1-23461 GENERAL PERSHING 33 (D,F,G,S) (J Perry) G Richards 9-11-13 J Osborne 92
3 P2-311P CARBISDALE 33 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-4 P Niven 87
4 P11-1F2 USHERS ISLAND 50 (D,F,G) (F Bowden) J Johnson 8-11-2 K O'Brien 90
5 12F1-11 GNOME'S TYCOON 28 (C,F,G,S) (I Naylor) R Phillips 8-10-11 J Railton (5)
6 5-12F43 STUNNING STUFF 32 (F,G) (G Disaddi) K Bailey 9-10-7 S McNeill 91
7 2A-2334 MUSTHAVEASWIG 58 (C,D,G) (P D Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 8-10-5 W Marston 93
8 151-PP1 AVONBURN 26 (D,F,G,S) (H Spooner) P Hedger 10-10-7 M Richards 92
9 1U8-2PP SCOLE 33 (G) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 9-10-0 P Murphy (7) 82
10 3U113-1 NO MORE TRIX 59 (G,S) (The Roses Syndicate) T Tate 8-10-0 R Garrity 93

Long handicap: Scole 9-11, No More Trix 9-10

BETTING: 4-1 Gnome's Tycoon, 9-2 Fragrant Dawn, 11-2 Carbisdale, No More Trix, 6-1 Ushers Island, 10-1 General Pershing, 12-1 Avonburn, 14-1 Musthaveaswig, Stunning Stuff, 33-1 Scole.

1993: YOUNG HUSTLER 6-10-0 D Bridgwater (9-2) N Twiston-Davies 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

FRAGRANT DAWN beat Young Hustler 3l in grade III handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good) with STUNNING STUFF (19lb better off) 20¼l 4th and GENERAL PERSHING (7lb better off) 13¼l 6th. GENERAL PERSHING beat Mr Boston 5l in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, soft) with CARBISDALE (3lb better off) pulled up at Nethery. CARBISDALE beat Dustin Flyer 14½l in handicap chase here (3m 2f, good) on penultimate start. USHERS ISLAND 5l 2nd of 8 to Flashing Steel in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good). GNOME'S TYCOON beat Viking Flagship 15l in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, soft). MUSTHAVEASWIG 15½l 4th of 11 to Do Be Brief in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 7f, good). AVONBURN beat Warrior For Winners 11l in handicap chase at Windsor (3m, soft). NO MORE TRIX beat On The Hoogh 14½l in handicap chase at Cartmel (3m 1f 110yd, good).

Selection: FRAGRANT DAWN

3.10 YORKSHIRE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,782: 2m 4f) (16 runners) C4

1 18/132P- AMBUSCADE 371 (F,G,S) (Mrs L Firth) E Alston 8-12-0 M Richards 87
2 1002-12 SILLARS STALKER 50 (C,D,F,G,S) (Sillars Eng) Mrs J Ramsden 6-11-3 J Twomey (5)
3 221-3P6 HIGH ALTITUDE 31 (B,D,G,S) (S Bailey) G Moore 5-11-2 L Wyer 96
4 2110- VIARDOT 7F (S) (Exors of Mrs H North) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12 P Niven 91
5 F42P41- PETTUCCINE 238 (F,G,S) (J Walker) P Cheesbrough 10-10-9 A Thornton (3) 95
6 1146-34 KIVETON TYCOON 33 (B,G,S) (R H (Equine) Ltd) J Glover 5-10-6 G McCourt 92
7 10-2466 BO KNOWS BEST 16 (F) (N Goldsmith) Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-6 W Marston 97
8 111-020 NODFORM WONDER 70 (D,F,G,S) (M Tulloch) J Johnson 7-10-5 K O'Brien 94
9 1211-12 STRATH ROYAL 28 (C,F,G,S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) G Bretman 8-10-2 M Brennan 97
10 5450-5P THE DEMON BARBER 9 (D,F,G,S) (Clockmasters Ltd) G Richards 12-10-1 J Osborne 92
11 414PP-1 OUR SLIMBRIDGE 74 (C,D,G,S) (A Fiber) C Williams 6-10-0 A Carroll 88
12 00/43-00 SPROWSTON BOY 7 (C,F,G,S) (G Whitlow) M Chapman 11-10-0 W Worthington 96
13 340043 REVE DE VALSE 9 (G,S) (A Higgins) Denys Smith 7-10-0 P Waggott (5) 88
14 51010-0 DOOLAR 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Farmer) P Dalton 7-10-0 N Mann 92
15 02113-4 TEMPLE GARTH 60 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Wilson) P Beaumont 5-10-0 B Grattan (7) 75
16 01R64U CHIEF RAIDER 71 (D,S) (J Wade) J Wade 6-10-0 D Ryan (7) 80

Long handicap: Our Slimbridge 9-12, Sprowston Boy 9-12, Reve De Valse 9-11, Doolar 9-8, Temple Garth 9-2, Chief Raider 9-2.

BETTING: 5-1 Sillars Stalker, 6-1 Strath Royal, 8-1 Reve De Valse, Viardot, 10-1 Bo Knows Best, High Altitude, Kiveton Tycoon, 12-1 Petteuccine, Our Slimbridge 14-1 Ambuscade, 16-1 others.

1993: JAKARRTA 7-11-3 B de Haan (4-1) Mrs J Pitman 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

SILLARS STALKER 11 2nd of 12 to Newton Point at handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) PETTUCCINE beat Perry Wall 16l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Stratford (3m 3f, good to firm). KIVETON TYCOON 13l 4th of 8 to Westholme in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft) with BO KNOWS BEST (2lb better off) 17l 6th. NODFORM WONDER 31¼l 2nd of 9 to Leaders Proposed in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 5f, good to soft) STRATH ROYAL beat Dual Image 2l in handicap hurdle here (2m 110yd, good) OUR SLIMBRIDGE beat So Discreet head in claiming hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f, good to soft).

Selection: KIVETON TYCOON

3.45 BURGHWALLIS NOVICES CHASE
(£3,079: 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 1533/11 MR WOODCOCK 70 (F,G,S) (P Tyler) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-12 P Niven 94
2 15-6523 CAMBO 11 (G,S) (M Banks) M Banks 8-11-4 D Skyrme (5)
3 1P144F COUNTORUS 7 (BF,G) (D Gill) J Johnson 8-11-4 K O'Brien –
4 613352- SLIEVENAMMON MIST 292 (G,S) (D S Racing) K Bailey 8-11-4 S McNeill –
5 THE PUB 140F (Mrs C Dean) L Lloyd-James 8-11-4 J Corbett –

BETTING: 4-5 Mr Woodcock, 3-1 Cambo, 9-2 Slievenammon Mist, 7-1 Countorus, 50-1 The Pub

1993: YOUNG TY 9-11-4 M Dwyer (4-1) Mrs M Reveley 10 ran

4.15 LOUELLA STUD PRIMITIVE RISING NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£2,215: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

1 14- CAPENWRAY 308 (G) (Mrs L Woodward) R Fetzer 5-12-3 A Thornton (3) –
2 BLACK STAG (T Owen) M Williamson 5-11-10 P Ward (7) –
3 CAPITAL LETTER (J Hales) J Leigh 5-11-10 Mr J Durkan –
4 DISSINGTON DENE (Dr R W Wylde) J Norton 5-11-10 P Midgley (5) –
5 GRAND PASHA (S Green) T Tate 5-11-10 W Fry (7) –
6 KING LUCIFER (Mrs A Dewes) D Nicholson 5-11-10 M Keighley (7) –
7 SPEAKER WEATHERILL (Lady Anne Bentinck) D Brennan 5-11-10 R Moore (7) –
8 SPY DESSA (Norbel Stud Ltd) T Carr 6-11-10 M Clarke (7) –
9 WARREN HOUSE (A Walker) M Hammond 5-11-10 S Lyons (5) –
10 1 CALL EQUINAME 22 (G) (Mrs K McLintock) D Easby 4-11-7 J Burke (5) –
11 HUTCEL BRIG (W Jackson) M W Easterby 5-11-5 P Johnson (7) –
12 MY LISA TOO (M Tennen) M Bycroft 5-11-5 G Tormey (7) –
13 GREY SIMONE (C Spence) M W Easterby 4-11-0 J Driscoll (7) –
14 LIEN DE FAMILLE (Mrs M Taylor) J Bottomley 4-11-0 E Husband (5) –
15 MASTER TOBY (J Shaw) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 T Jenks (5) –
16 DARING CREST (Mrs J Burridge) R Morgan 4-10-9 R Davis (3) –
17 EXCLUSIVE EDITION (Miss J Hall) A Foster 4-10-9 W Marston –
18 LINCCOOL (A Watson) M H Easterby 4-10-9 J Corbett –

BETTING: 2-1 Call Equiname, 5-1 King Lucifer, 7-1 Capenwray, Grand Pasha, 8-1 Lincool, 10-1 others.

1993: LARGE ACTION 5-11-3 J McCarthy (8-1) D Sherwood 18 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs J Ramsden	4	6	66.7	P Niven	14	44	31.8
P Cheesbrough	3	5	60.0	S McCourt	9	30	30.0
M Pipe	6	19	31.6	L Wyer	7	27	25.9
D Sherwood	6	19	31.6	J Osborne	5	35	14.2
G Richards	5	17	29.4				
Mrs M Reveley	10	48	20.8	Only qualifiers			

THUNDERER

1.10 Pridwell — 2.55 Richville
1.45 Young Hustler — 3.30 Poppets Pet
2.20 KING CREDO (nap) — 4.05 Dancing Paddy
4.40 Topping Tom

GOING: SOFT SIS

1.10 FOOD BROKERS FINESSE HURDLE
(Grade II: 4-Y-O: £6,280: 2m 1f) (7 runners) BBC1

101 3363 DEMBLINE 8 (Mrs S Talkton) N Twiston-Davies 11-0 C Llewellyn 85
102 1 HALHAM TARN 8 (S) (Lady Dendo) W Elsworth 11-0 P Holley 94
103 022 KARAR 12 (V,BF) (Miss M Sampson) S Brisy 11-0 N Williamson 90
104 60 MONAZITE 10 (Albury Racing Ltd) J MacCormack 11-0 R Bellamy 56
105 4111F6 MY BALLYBOY 14 (G,S) (A Bailey) A Bailey 11-0 S Smith Eccles 87
106 124 NAWAR 32 (S) (J Long) J Jenkins 11-0 D Murphy (5)
107 11 PRIDWELL 10 (S) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 11-0 R Dunwoody 91

BETTING: 2-1 Halnam Tarn, 3-1 Nawar, 9-2 Pridwell, 5-1 My Ballyboy, 6-1 Demblime, Karar, 16-1 Monazite.

1993: MAJOR BUSLER 11-0 A Maguire (13-2) B Balding 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

HALHAM TARN beat Just You Dare 7l in a 17-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft), with DEMBLINE 19l 3rd. KARAR neck 2nd of 9 to Wings Cove in a novice hurdle at Kempton on penultimate start (2m 5f, good to soft). MONAZITE 2¾l 7th of 15 to Empire Blue in a novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). MY BALLYBOY 19l 5th of 10 to Kadoscard in a novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft). Previously, best Bogist neck in a 7-runner novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). NAWAR 21l 4th of 12 to Mystic in the grade I Finale Junior Hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, heavy). Previously, neck 2nd of 5 to Admirals Well in the grade II Welton Crossing Hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft), with KARAR 37l 7th. PRIDWELL best Alyrade 3L in a 5-runner novice hurdle at Stockwell last time out (4½f, 2m, standard). Previously, best Slyjoky Relative 15l for a juvenile hurdle over the same course and distance (standard).

Selection: NAWAR

1.45 TIMEFORM HALL OF FAME CHASE
(£10,309: 3m 1f 110yd) (6 runners) BBC1

201 PP-250P SISTON ABBEY 32 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 9-11-10 D Murphy 89
202 112-P08 ANOTHER CORAL 33 (C,F,G,S) (M Dooley) D Nicholson 11-11-5 R Dunwoody 92
203 131262- BELMOUNT CAPTAIN 570 (CD,G,S) (R Lavelle) S Balding 9-11-6 R Guest 71
204 12021-2 RUN FOR FREE 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Findlay) M Pipe 10-11-5 M Pitman (5)
205 13-2214 YOUNG HUSTLER 33 (C,D,F,G,S) (B MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-6 C Llewellyn 93
206 211-231 DUBACILLA 42 (G,S) (Mrs V Cole) H Cole 8-10-12 D Gallagher 86

BETTING: 5-4 Run For Free, 9-4 Young Hustler, 7-1 Another Coral, 8-1 Belmount Captain, 12-1 Siston Abbey, 16-1 Dubacilla.

1993: SISTON ABBEY 8-11-12 S Smith Eccles (16-1) F Murphy 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SISTON ABBEY pulled up at half-way in the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow last time out (3m 5l 110yd, heavy). Beat ANOTHER CORAL (4lb better off) 3¼l in this race (good to firm) last year. ANOTHER CORAL over 35l 3rd of 5 to General Pershing in a handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, soft). BELMOUNT CAPTAIN 6l 2nd of 6 to Very Very Ordinary in a handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, heavy). RUN FOR FREE beat 2nd of 5 to Zeta's Lad in grade II Peter Marsh Handicap Chase at Haydock last Saturday (3m, soft). Last season overcame losing nearly 30l at the start to beat Merry Master a neck in the Stalls Scottish National at Ayr (4m 1f, good). YOUNG HUSTLER just over 20l 4th of 10 to Barton Bank in grade I King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton (3m, good). Previously, best Latest Talent 6l in an 8-runner handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft). DUBACILLA beat Gay Rufflon 3l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 7f, heavy).

Selection: RUN FOR FREE (nap)

2.20 CLEEVE HURDLE
(Grade I: £25,120: 2m 5f 110yd) (7 runners) BBC1

301 414-1F5 KING CREDO 32 (D,S) (G Goodall) S Woodman 9-11-6 D Murphy 97
302 F451/1- MOLE BOARD 357 (C,F,S,S) (W Stud) J Old 12-11-8 T Grantham 92
303 222113 SWEET DUKE 7 (D,BF,S,S) (A Mawson) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8 C Llewellyn 95
304 5430-00 SWEET GLOW 7 (C,F,S,S) (L Hyman) M Pipe 7-11-8 M Foster 92
305 434/110 TRIPLE WITCHING 42 (BF,F,S,S) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 8-11-8 N Williamson 91
306 2P2-1131 ABSALOM'S LADY 28 (C,S,S) (Whitcombe Manor Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 5-11-3 P Holley 98
307 0-43421 FLAKEY DOVE 7 (D,F,S,S) (J Price) R Price 6-11-3 R Dunwoody 96

BETTING: 3-1 Sweet Duke, Absalom's Lady, 7-2 King Credo, 9-2 Flakey Dove, 11-2 Triple Witching, 16-1 Mole Board, Sweet Glow.

1993: MUSE 6-11-8 P Holley (11-4) D Elsworth 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

KING CREDO beat SWEET DUKE (5lb better off) 3¼l in the 6-runner grade II Coopers & Lybrand Handle at Aintree in November (2m 4f, good), with FLAKEY DOVE (same terms) a neck 3rd. MOLE BOARD beat Valfleet 5l in a 5-runner conditions hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). SWEET DUKE 39¼l 3rd of 6 to Simpson in the grade II Premier Long Distance Hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, soft), with SWEET GLOW (same terms) 57¼l 7th. TRIPLE WITCHING beat SWEET DUKE (6lb better off) 5l in the 7-runner grade II Long Distance Handle at Newbury in November (3m 110yd, good). ABSALOM'S LADY beat FLAKEY DOVE (4lb better off) 6l in a 5-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft). FLAKEY DOVE beat Tiananmen Square 20l in the 5-runner grade II Champion Hurdle Trial at Haydock (2m, soft).

Selection: SWEET DUKE

2.55 LOBB PARTNERSHIP HALL OF FAME HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,810: 2m 5f) (8 runners)

401 18P-P34 WATERLOO BOY 14 (C,BF,F,G,S) (M Dooley) D Nicholson 11-12-0 R Dunwoody 94
402 430/5-3 ROMANY KING 105 (D,G,S) (U Schwarzenbach) G Balding 10-11-5 R Guest 89
403 21/21-P RYDE ASAIN 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (Miss J Hayward) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-3 D Murphy 93
404 211/251- FOR THE GRAIN 397 (C,D,F,G,S) (S Brooks) D Nicholson 10-10-12 M A Fitzgerald 90
405 241143 TOBY TOBIAS 16 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Hitching) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-10 G Bradley 89
406 2U1112 RICHVILLE 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Major-Gen R Burges) K Bailey 8-10-2 M Williamson (5)
407 24-2138 WADE BOY 14 (D,F,G,S) (M Popham) P Hobbs 12-10-0 Guy Lewis (5) 84
408 20-3221 SOUTHERN MINSTREL 26 (CD,F,G,S) (B Hennessy) P Cheesbrough 11-10-0 B Powell 89

Long handicap: Wade Boy 9-8, Southern Minstrel 9-2.

BETTING: 3-1 Richville, 3-1 Toby Tobias, 5-1 Waterloo Boy, 8-1 For The Grain, Romany King, 10-1 others.

1993: RYDE ASAIN 12-11-9 M Pitman (7-4 fav) Mrs J Pitman 7 ran

3.30 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER HALL OF FAME NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,280: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

501 2-2F421 MONSIEUR LE CURE 7 (G,S) (H Brown) J Edwards 8-12-0 N Williamson 88
502 313U1R THE GLOW 8 (D,G,S) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 6-12-0 P Holley 92
503 05/332-2 PROPERO 11 (S,S) (Mrs S Webb) J Spiford 9-11-6 P Hide (3) 99
504 653-421 FANTUS 31 (D,G,S) (Hunt & Co (Bournemouth) Ltd) P Nicholls 7-10-10 R Dunwoody 91
505 15P1P/5 DON VALENTINO 14 (D,BF,G,S) (Mrs E Hitching) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-8 G Bradley –
506 3332-14 WELL BRIEFED 26 (D,F,S) (P Jones) R Buckler 7-10-6 B Powell 86
507 6645-15 PETTY BRIDGE 59 (C,D,F,G,S) (C & R Bowden) A James 10-10-4 R Bellamy 91
508 4P1335 POPPETS PET 16 (S) (D Lee) J Mullins 7-10-1 S Hodgson (5)
509 00-PUU ONE MORE RUN 33 (Ist Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 7-10-8 R Supple –
510 /23/5P0 CANAVES 14 (S,S) (Mrs J Webber 8-10-0 C Maude 75
511 0/00-PP4 SHOREHAM LADY 47 (A Wilson) S Cole 9-10-0 Lorna Vincent –

Long handicap: One More Run 8-8, Canaver 9-2, Shoreham Lady 8-5.

BETTING: 5-2 Fantus, 3-1 Monsieur Le Cure, 9-2 The Glow, 5-1 Propero, 8-1 Poppets Pet, 12-1 others

1993: LITTLE-NIPPER 8-10-7 R Dunwoody (4-1) D Nicholson 6 ran

4.05 CHELTENHAM HALL OF FAME HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,926: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

601 F2PF1-0 BADRAKHANI 14 (D,G,S) (P Slade) C Mann 8-11-13 M Bosley 88
602 41F01-5 DANCING PADDY 26 (CD,S) (K Cunningham-Brown) S Brisy 8-11-12 D O'Sullivan 96
603 /5054/ ELEMENTARY 7F (D,F,S) (P Green) N Walker 11-11-3 D Murphy –
604 2515-36 MIAMI SPLASH 14 (G,S) (G Wrigley) P Hobbs 7-11-1 M Hourigan 98
605 5140-1 SOOTHFAST 14 (S) (W Stud) J Old 5-10-12 T Grantham 97
606 141118 NORTHERN SADDLER 7 (D,F,G,S) (R Evans) R Hodges 7-10-10 M A Fitzgerald 89
607 511- LYNCH LAW 294 (D,F,S) (F Fenant) M Pipe 6-10-7 R Dunwoody 90
608 4231/00- NO SIR ROM 257F (F,G) (Mrs M Payne) R Dickin 8-10-5 D Meredith (5) –
609 P2/122 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 9 (BF,G,S) (S Tindall) S Charles-Jones 8-10-4 D Meade 88

BETTING: 9-4 Lynch Law, 3-1 Soothfast, 11-2 Miami Splash, 6-1 Northern Saddler, 8-1 others.

1993: DANCING PADDY 5-10-11 D O'Sullivan (9-1) K Cunningham-Brown 10 ran

4.40 RACEGOERS CLUB HALL OF FAME NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,933: 2m 1f) (7 runners)

1 311 REUKEL 29 (S) (Reg C Harvey) D Nicholson 5-11-10 R Dunwoody 96
2 3U-1420 BEYOND OUR REACH 26 (BF,G) (Hunt & Co Ltd) R Hodges 6-11-7 M A Fitzgerald 97
3 236011 TOPPING TOM 30 (S) (Mrs J Nicoll) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-5 C Llewellyn 89
4 /34921 EMPIRE BLUE 10 (G) (Mrs H Jones) J Bosley 11-10-12 M Bosley 89
5 5-02 MR JERVIS 59 (F) (Rosendall's Widow & Son) J Gifford 5-10-6 D Murphy 92
6 16P005- WALKERS POINT 247 (S) (D Foster) Miss R Pitman 8-10-0 W Humphreys –
7 345562 WILL'S BOUNTY 93 (F) (Mrs T Williams) J Colston 11-10-0 N Williamson 88

Long handicap: Walkers Point 9-5, Will's Bounty 9-3

BETTING: 7-4 Reukel, 5-2 Topping Tom, 7-2 Empire Blue, 8-1 Mr Jervis, 16-1 Beyond Our Reach, 25-1 others.

1993: COUNTRY LAD 5-10-11 M A Fitzgerald (33-1) Mrs S Williams 7 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
K Bailey	13	49	26.5	R Guest	9	38	23.7
D Nicholson	36	154	23.4	R Dunwoody	50	233	21.5
N Twiston-Davies	21	102	20.6	M Foster	5	25	20
M Pipe	52	255	20.4	S Smith Eccles	6	31	19.4
G Balding	21	118	17.8	C Llewellyn	12	83	14.5

Nawar can return to winning ways

CHELTENHAM
BBC1



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

1.10: Nawar's successful debut over hurdles at Leicester two months ago was boosted by the runaway success earlier this week of the runner-up, Moorish. He has run well twice in defeat since, and will take some beating. Halham Tarn won a weakish race at Kempton last Friday and Pridwell, easy winner of two all-weather races, could prove the danger.

1.45: It is difficult to get away from Run For Free, who has an obvious chance following a promising seasonal reappearance behind Zeta's Lad at Haydock last week. Strongly fancied by some for the Gold Cup here in March, he is well treated by the race conditions. Young Hustler, last season's Sun Alliance Chase winner, will appreciate this track more than Kempton last time, but the fierce pace set by this pair will suit the improving Dubacilla, and she could pose the biggest threat.

2.20: Mole Board looked in good shape on Jim Old's gallops this week and has ground conditions in his favour, but may need this run. Absalom's Lady is not sure to stay almost 2¾ miles on this stiff track. Richard Dunwoody, who could have ridden Triple Witching, has remained loyal to Flakey Dove having partnered her to an impressive success at Haydock last Saturday.

DONCASTER
C4

1.35: Corrouge arguably boasts the second best novice form

British aim to reach new peak with continental ski school


Carrick-Anderson: No 1

David Powell shares the frustration of aspiring British skiers as blizzards wreck competitions

The trophies sat in a cardboard box in the race office here, most of them unclaimed. Skiers came and went, weather-watching and wondering when they could get out to race. Young British skiers aspiring to World Cup class face enough obstacles without one of their main competitive challenges of the year being wrecked by blizzards.

"I would kill for a super-g or a downhill," David Cook, a junior world championships medal hope, said. The first two of the scheduled four days of the British championships had been lost and Cook's frustration was mountain-high. "This and the world junior championships were my main events of the season," he said.

It must seem idiosyncratic to some that the British skiing championships should be held in France. Why not in Scotland? The answer comes from John Ritblat, the chairman of British Land, which has sponsored the championships for 16 years.

"It is sufficiently important for us not to have it in Scotland," he said. "If we wanted parochialism and amateurism, we would take our chance in Scotland." But British skiing is trying hard to be taken seriously and, given the disadvantages it faces compared with the Alpine nations, it manages passably well.

Through his pocket and that of his company's, Ritblat and British Land have contributed £1 million to British skiing. By supporting championships in France, they give British skiers more exacting pistes than they would have at home and a chance to improve their International Ski Federation ranking.

"I am positive we could never have a homologated downhill or super-g in Scotland," Ritblat said. "There is not the length of piste, nor would it measure up to the minimum requirements of length, drop and difficulty."

Ritblat is the new president of the British Ski Federation (BSF). He thinks he knows why. "They wanted to mark the contribution I had made to British skiing," he said. "When they asked me, I said it would be different because all my predecessors have, as a minimum, been an Earl. I am nothing at all, plain Mr, and that's on a good day."

More than marking a contribution, though, it is perhaps a sign of changing attitudes, of a resolution to take British skiing to a new peak.

"Structurally and organisationally, we are better-placed than we have ever been," Ritblat said. He is not alone in these thoughts.

Nigel Smith, Britain's best finisher in a men's Olympic super giant slalom, in 1988, is now a British team coach. "The coaching back-up from the federation has never been better," he said.

The next British snowball being aimed at Europe could be the one that counts. A British ski school on the continent, where 100 or so promising young skiers would have their full-time education, is being mooted. "Instead of going out in the afternoon and playing football or cricket, they would ski," Ritblat said.

Britain's most successful skier at the 1992 Winter Olympics was Emma Carrick-Anderson; aged 16, she was at school in Austria. Still there, she is clearly Britain's No 1 woman skier.

"We need a permanent home to train our skiers," Ritblat said. "It is seen as absolute necessity that we should have a training facility that includes education and that it should be within the means of ordinary prospect. A plan is being prepared for consideration by the ski federation. We have already taken soundings on a scientific basis as to where it ought to be located."

Another day was lost yesterday, the third out of four and the championships have been extended until today. Sarah Lewis, Alpine director of the BSF, has been trying to keep up spirits. "They have to learn to be patient, it is a big part of our sport," she said.

"At Morioka last year [the world championships], I don't think any race went on the scheduled day." Anyway, there is always next year.

Courier no match for Sampras

Martin outpoints Edberg to set up all-American final

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

PETE Sampras, the top seed, and Todd Martin, the ninth, both touched perfection in reaching the men's singles final of the Australian Open at Flinders Park here yesterday.

Sampras excelled for more than two hours in a match hailed as one of the finest ever. He beat the holder, Jim Courier, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Martin's brilliance came more in flashes and it took him almost twice as long to suppress the beaten finalist last year, Stefan Edberg, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 7-6.

As the introverted Sampras is not known for blowing his own trumpet, it is particularly significant when he says: "I couldn't play any better. I served as well as I can and everything else clicked. It makes you wish that every day was like this."

Characteristically, Courier did not easily yield the title he has protected for two years. Several rallies, concluded either with a rasping drive, or a deft drop shot, took the breath away and it was a measure of Sampras's dazzling demonstration that he should win so swiftly in straight sets.

A protracted struggle had been predicted between adversaries who had both been rated as the No 1 players in the world last year. Courier had won his last 19 matches at Flinders Park and, by coincidence, Sampras had won his last 19 grand slam matches, including the finals at Wimbledon and the US Open.

Economically, with one break in the middle of each set, Sampras prevailed for the ninth time in 11 meetings. He always brings out the best in me," he said, before adding magnanimously, "but he is still a couple of levels above me on clay."

Sampras was not surprised that he should have an appointment tomorrow with the rank outsider among the last four. "Todd has one of the best returns in the world," he said. "He is the most improved player I've seen for a long time and he's in a good groove."

Once Martin had found his range, with a clubbing forehand, he blasted gaping holes in the strategy of one of the leading exponents of the serve-and-volley game. Edberg came to the net 207 times and on 83 occasions he found that his visit had been pointless.

Their match followed a haphazard course. Edberg, in capturing the opening set, took six out of seven games. Martin responded by winning the next four, the Swede replying with five of the next six.

Ultimately, only the tie-breaks divided them and here the American was rewarded for the greater consistency. A professional for a mere 3½ years, the 6ft 6in Martin confessed that he could not have coped with the sport's pressures until he was 20.

Recognising that he lacked the ability and emotional development, he enrolled instead at Northwestern University. "If I hadn't done that, I would probably be teaching tennis now," he said.

Until now, his progress has been steady rather than spectacular. He has gained only one title, at Coral Springs last May, but he has been convinced he could secure a grand slam title since qualifying for the 1991 French Open. It was the last time he had overcome six successive opponents.

The 23-year-old has twice before met Sampras, a fellow resident in Florida, and lost both times. A seven-handicapper, he was also beaten on the golf course by Sampras, who plays off 16. "I'm relieved I don't have to give him any shots on Sunday," he said.

Both of the eliminated semi-finalists believe that the final may be closer than generally expected. "It is an interesting match-up," Courier said, "a flip of the coin." If Sampras retains his form, though, his claims to a third successive grand slam title are irresistible.

When waiting to discover the identity of his opponent, Martin was asked whom he would prefer to play. "Whoever loses would be the easier," he said. "But the problem is I have to play the guy that wins." He could not have anticipated how impressive that winner would be.

Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, was yesterday fined $6,000 (£4,000) for making audible obscenities in his native language during his quarter-final defeat by Courier on Wednesday.

Ken Farrar, the tournament supervisor, issued the hefty fine after scanning a videotape of the match in the presence of a Croatian interpreter.

Farrar said the fine, the biggest of the tournament, was handed out after the interpreter had confirmed that Ivanisevic had spoken obscenities in Croat. Ivanisevic lost the quarter-final in straight sets.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: P Sampras (US) bt J Courier (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; T Martin (US) bt S Edberg (Swe) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 7-6.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: P Fendick and M McGrath (US) bt J Novotna (Cz) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 6-3, 7-5; G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Belo) bt P Shriver (US) and L Smylie (Aus) 6-3, 6-3.

MIXED DOUBLES: Semi-final: A Olhovskiy (Russ) and L Neiland (Lat) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) and N Medvedeva (Ukr) 6-1, Haarhuis ret.


STEVE HOLLAND
Martin celebrates his four-set win over Edberg in the Australian Open men's semi-finals yesterday

Jackson in running for double berth in Paris match

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ANDY Norman, the promoter responsible for arranging Britain's first international athletics match of the year, today, has taken an unscheduled holiday and will not be present.

Norman is on an enforced break, awaiting the outcome of an enquiry into the phone call he made to the journalist and coach, Cliff Temple, alleging sexual harrassment of women athletes, six months before Temple committed suicide.

On stage at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, for the indoor match against Russia, will be Britain's best sprint double act. Colin Jackson, who for years has been one of Norman's leading attractions, faces Linford Christie, another, over 60 metres, and an hour later takes to his blocks in the 60 metres hurdles.

Christie made an impressive start to the year, winning the 60 metres in the Scottish indoor championships on Sunday in 6.60sec. Jackson is said by his coach, Malcolm Arnold, to be just as sharp. Arnold should know, having spent three weeks in Australia watching them training.

After Jackson's zenith in 1993, when he set a 110 metres hurdles world record while taking the world title in Stuttgart, an indoor season with no global championship seems hardly worth his attention. What, then, does he hope to get out of it? "Why do you go to work?" Arnold asked. "He goes to work to earn money."

Jackson's work comes with the guarantee of good value. The appeal of watching him in the 60 metres hurdles this winter will be to see whether he can now take the indoor world record. Even for Jackson, it is, perhaps, asking too much.

As Arnold said: "It is acknowledged by people in the athletics world that [Greg] Foster and [Roger] Kingdom got flying starts." The world record is held by Foster at 7.36sec and Kingdom, his fellow American, clocked 7.37sec. Jackson's European record is 7.41sec.

"The quickest he has opened a winter's season with is 7.46sec and I think he will go better than that by the evidence of Wednesday's training," Arnold added.

Any improvement in flat speed will augur well and, with Christie to pull on, his best of 6.60sec for 60 metres may be ready for revision.

The selectors have indicated they expect as much, giving Jackson the second place in the team despite Michael Rosswess's 6.63sec behind Christie last weekend. More bad news for Rosswess is that Jackson aims to run the 60 metres flat, as well as the hurdles, at the European indoor championships, in Paris, in March.

Although Christie says he is unlikely to seek selection for the championships, he remains open-minded.

The shortage of indoor training facilities in Britain remains an obstacle. Jackson, for all his success, still faces a round journey of 100 miles from home for specific training. "The only indoor facility we have is 70 metres long and four lanes wide in Swansea," Arnold said.

In Aleksandr Porkhomovskiy, the Russians have a fast starter whose stocky physique is suited to indoor sprinting and he may run Christie and Jackson close.

Victory is by no means certain in match, sponsored by Pearl Assurance, which has brought to Scotland strong Russian men's and women's teams. "It will put us in touch with reality for a tough season ahead," Frank Dick, Britain's chief coach, said.

Duff returns to his former allegiance

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

HUGH Duff's selection to play for Scotland in the home international bowls series at Rushcliffe, Nottingham, in March has raised a few eyebrows on both sides of Hadrian's Wall.

Duff was first capped for Scotland in 1985 but, when he moved to Hull in 1991, he made himself available for England, who snapped up the chance of exploiting the drawing skills of the 1988 world indoor singles champion.

Scots were among the most voluble critics of the England selectors, claiming Duff's adoption had been effected with indecent haste. They called for a settling-in period of qualification, as in other sports. Most England players welcomed Duff's arrival, although there were a few whispers from those who suspected he might have pinched their place.

Now, he has returned to the country of his birth, where he has taken a post at the Cumbernauld indoor club. Almost as soon as he arrived, he won the Scottish two-bowl pairs championship and declared himself eligible for Scotland. Again, there were Scots who said he should bide his time but their voices were not so loud this time around.

But should he — should anyone — be allowed to chop and change allegiance? There are, of course, precedents. When he made his debut for England, Duff joined his fellow Scots, Andy Thomson and Ronnie Gass, in a side that also included Welsh-born Wynne Richards.

Adding a twist to the situation is the selection of Robert Weale for Wales. Weale was born in England, lives in England and works in England. Because he drives to Llandrindod Wells to play, he is eligible to play for Wales and is pleased to do so.

"I play outdoors for Presteigne and have played for Wales on grass since 1984," he said. "My loyalties are very much with Wales."

Duff said yesterday: "I didn't expect to get back in the side so soon but I'm quite clear about the eligiblity. If you are picked, you go out to do your best. Nationality doesn't come into it."

In bowls, national eligibility depends on club affiliation. If you are a member of a Welsh club, you can play for Wales. No questions asked.

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Bills struggle to shake off past failures

Oliver Holt reports from Atlanta as the underdogs betray their nerves before the Super Bowl

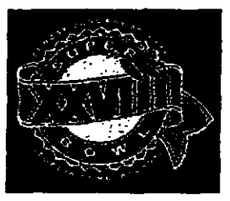
Jim Kelly, the Buffalo Bills quarterback, returned to his favourite subject yesterday: he began talking about his family. His mother, Alice, is coming to Super Bowl XXVIII at the Georgia Dome here in Atlanta tomorrow. "She is recovering from a heart attack and she's doing fine," he said. "She's hanging in there. She's one tough sucker."

If Mrs Kelly's fortitude is not in doubt, there is still a question mark hanging over her son's strength of character. The Super Bowl is to Jim Kelly what the Wimbledon title was to Ken Rosewall and Ivan Lendl. He gets close but, when his eyes are on the prize, he crumbles.

That the Bills are tough is beyond doubt. They keep bouncing back from Super Bowl defeats, coming back for more. But, like a punch-drunk fighter, the impression is that they are becoming increasingly groggy with each reverse. One more might just knock them out for good.

The feeling has grown all week here that the Bills have some sort of inherent flaw. They have spent much of the time shielding questions on their ill-disciplined off-the-field behaviour before last year's defeat to the Dallas Cowboys, the same team they face tomorrow.

The highest-profile Cowboys, Troy Aikman, the quarterback, and Emmitt Smith, the running back, talk clearly and concisely, with good grace and ready humour. Kelly and Thurman Thomas, the Bills' star running back, ramble almost incoherently at times and with a truculence borne of forced denials of inferiority. Being second-best is better than being last but, in sporting terms, it still makes you a loser.



Kelly has spent most of the week maintaining that losing in three consecutive Super Bowls is not such a bad record, that the Bills have secured their place in history by reaching the ultimate stage of the competition an unprecedented four times in succession. Yet even before the game has started, psychologically at least, they are already way behind.

"Everybody always talks about the negative things about Thurman Thomas," Thomas said yesterday. "They never talk about me donating five scholarships to Erie Community College in Buffalo, donating $1 million to Oklahoma State, donating money to the United Negro College fund. Nobody ever talks about that because that's good stuff."

To his intense irritation, they concentrate instead of the time he misplaced his helmet before the Super Bowl against Washington two years ago, was forced to miss some early plays and, after a season when he had rushed for more than 1,400 yards, managed just 13 in the game. His disarray on that day has become a symbol of his team's Super Bowl ineptitude. In last year's 52-17 defeat by the Cowboys, he managed just 19 yards.

Before he was injured in the second quarter of that traumatic game, Kelly threw two interceptions and gave away a touchdown with a fumble. "To tell the truth, I don't think I had that bad a game," he said. "On one of the interceptions, our guy fell down and the Dallas guy stole in and, on the other, the only thing I could do was throw it up and hope we came down with it ... which didn't happen. But if I was to retire tomorrow, I would still have fulfilled all my dreams."

Nobody really believes that but only a few think the Bills can prevent the Cowboys completing a decade of dominance for the National Football Conference. There is a residue of sympathy for Buffalo at the bottom of the pit of antipathy and affection for this team that has somehow come to epitomise blue collar America.

However, the suspicion is that they are still not good enough, that they will be unable to stifle the calm orchestration and vision of Aikman and the explosive pace of Smith and wide receiver Michael Irvin, the men who demolished them last year.

Perhaps their brooding anger will work to their advantage, fire them up, hurtle them towards an upset. If they can eliminate the nine turnovers that destroyed their chances last year, capitalise on the injury worries surrounding Aikman's head and Smith's shoulder and create the channels for Thomas to run into, they have a chance. The margin of defeat, at least, should not be so great.

"I think there has been a lack of recognition of a much deeper story here," Marv Levy, the Bills coach, a Harvard history graduate, said. "This team epitomises the American ethic. What it takes to come back, to persevere and to push on to fight the tide. That was the story in my mind. It is my sincere belief that they are the most resilient bunch of individuals I have ever been associated with."

SUPER BOWL XXVIII

EVENT: Super Bowl XXVIII, the National Football League final. Kick-off: tomorrow, 23.19GMT. The winning team takes permanent possession of a Vince Lombardi Trophy, named after the late coach of the Green Bay Packers, who won the first two Super Bowls (1967, 1968)

PARTICIPANTS: Buffalo Bills v Dallas Cowboys. Buffalo (14 wins, four defeats), who won the American Football Conference East division, have won more games than any other club over the past four years. In the play-offs, they beat the LA Raiders 29-23 and Kansas City 30-13. Dallas (14-4) won the National Football Conference East. In the play-offs, they beat Green Bay 27-17 and San Francisco 38-21.

EXPERIENCE: Dallas are making a record seventh Super Bowl appearance, having won three and lost three. Buffalo were runners-up in the past three Super Bowls. This game marks the first rematch in successive years. Forty-one Bills and 38 Cowboys have been in Super Bowls, including 26 Bills for the fourth time.

VENUE: Georgia Dome, Atlanta. First time. Capacity: 71,594 seats. Playing surface: artificial.

BROADCAST: Television coverage begins at 10.45pm on Channel 4. NBC will provide the play-by-play. Estimated worldwide audience: 750 million. US Armed Forces Radio will carry the game.

COACHES: Buffalo: Marv Levy, 65; master's degree from Harvard; seventh full season; record with club: 89-43; losing coach in past three Super Bowls. Dallas: Jimmy Johnson, 50; University of Arkansas; fifth season; record with club: 50-37; second Super Bowl, winning coach last year.

PREVIOUS MATCH: Buffalo won away 13-10 on September 12, when Dallas were missing Emmitt Smith.

BETTING: American oddsmakers favour Dallas by ten points. Ladbrokes listed the Cowboys as 1-8 favourites. The Bills were listed at 7-2, making them the biggest underdogs since the New York Jets in Super Bowl III. The Jets won.

☐ *Compiled by Robert Kirley*

هكذا من الأصل

Bracken returns for Bristol

Injuries present England with selection puzzle

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

EVERYTHING in England's garden ought to be rosy as they approach their opening five nations' championship match. The team to play Scotland at Murrayfield next weekend will be confirmed tomorrow but, after the victory over New Zealand in November, it should be a straightforward matter.

Would that life were so simple. Of the team that beat the All Blacks, three will not play because of injuries: Dean Richards, the No 8, Nigel Redman, the lock, and Kyran Bracken, the scrum half.

In addition, Jonathan Callard, the full back, missed Bath's cup game last week with a strained hamstring, Tim Rodber has been missing from Northampton's back row for the same reason and Martin Bayfield has been trying to make up ground after missing the first half of the season.

To throw more spanners in the works, Ben Clarke misses Bath's league match today, Neil Back will not play for Leicester and nor will Matthew Dawson appear in Northampton's colours. Add all the negatives together and the selectors' task, with an A team against Italy and an emerging players' XV against Spain to be selected, too, becomes anything but simple.

Of that casualty list, Bracken and Redman play today after, respectively, nine weeks and eight weeks away. Bristol wheel Bracken straight back into their Courage Clubs Championship match with Harlequins while Redman plays in the Bath second team, the difference being that the Bath lock already knows that he is destined for Piacenza with England A next Saturday while Bracken nourishes hopes of going to Scotland.

It might be thought precipitate to ask Redman to play an A international, given his lack of match practice; it would certainly be true for Bracken, however well he plays against Harlequins. The chances are that Dewi Morris will return as England's scrum half after missing the game against New Zealand with a chest infection, with Bracken among the replacements.



Bracken: nine weeks out

Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, will be at the Memorial Ground to watch Bracken's return from the ankle injury inflicted by Jamie Joseph's stamping. "I took a full part in Bristol's training on Wednesday night and came through without further aggravation," Bracken said.

He will be opposed by Rob Glenister, Harlequins having restored him to scrum half ahead of Craig Luxton. Chris Sheasby returns after a rib injury to the open-side flank that is, coincidentally, the contentious position in the England back row.

With Richards recovering from a dislocated elbow, the selectors will move either Clarke or Rodber to No 8 and must then decide whether Back is to be given a first cap or John Hall should continue an international career that began in 1984. Unless, of course, Steve Ojomoh plays such a powerful game at No 8 for Bath against Orrell that he merits consideration.

Back misses Leicester's game with Gloucester because of a "dead leg" acquired in the cup win over London Irish last week. Bill Drake-Lee replaces him, with Chris Tarbuck making his league debut at No 8 as Leicester maintain their pursuit of Bath.

At the other end of the first division, Northampton find themselves too near the relegation zone for comfort. If they are to cobble their season back together, they must beat a London Irish team that has Jim Staples restored at full back but with a makeshift midfield after injuries to Dan Dooley, Sean Burns and Owen Cobbe.

Rodber will captain Northampton now that John Olver has retired but Peter Walton rests before winning his first Scotland cap and Gavin Baldwin is dropped from the front row.

Brett Taylor plays scrum half so that Dawson can rest. "He's taken a hell of a battering over the last three weeks," Glenn Rioss, the Northampton coach, said. "He's an extremely talented young boy and I have the utmost faith in him. I just want him to have a breathing space."

With injuries and representative games in profusion, reduced commitments would help. But in March, which already includes two international weekends and two league weekends, a Canadian development team is likely to play two games in Wales and three in England, against two divisional teams — probably the North, and London and South-East — and the emerging players. Where will it end?

No rest for Quinnell in chase for double

BY DAVID HANDS

THE constant demands of representative rugby have taken their toll of Llanelli's consistency. The Scarlets, cup and league winners last season, remain in contention for both competitions but few would pretend that their form has been as overwhelming as it was 12 months ago.

They have 11 players involved with Wales' match in Ireland next weekend; three more are with the A team and another seven in the under-21 squad, both teams playing Irish opponents. Is it any wonder that, coupled with the loss to Wales of Gareth Jenkins, their outstanding coach, concentration on opponents in the Heineken League may sometimes waver a bit?

Cardiff's visit to Stradey Park today may help in that they, along with Pontypridd, represent the best of East Wales. Llanelli and Cardiff have both won 11 league games this season, though Cardiff will remember that an injury-stricken Llanelli won 15-9 at the Arms Park last October and will be looking for a double on their ground, where Cardiff have never won a league match.

Emyr Lewis misses the match so Scott Quinnell plays in Llanelli's back row, though the club had planned to rest him. Wayne Proctor demonstrates his recovery from injury before taking his place on the wing for Wales in Dublin next Saturday.

Swansea, the first division leaders, examine Pontypool's recent revival without Mark Titley, the wing who is recovering from a strained hamstring. "Our revival has been a little over-publicised," Mark Ring, the Pontypool captain, said. "But we have picked up lately and, at home, we must have a chance. They will be eager to maintain their title challenge and it's a big game for them."

Bramley ready to pick up sword again



Ashton, the Bramley player-coach, is keen to keep up spirits in the harsh McLaren Field environment. Photograph: Justin Slee

Christopher Irvine visits a club hoping to turn its back on 98 years of low achievement

In 98 years of uphill struggle, Bramley rugby league club have won just one prize. The sages at McLaren Field still gleefully recall the time 20 years ago when an illustrious Widnes side was put to the sword in the old BBC2 Floodlit Trophy in a match notable for being played in broad daylight.

The floodlights at the ground could not be switched on because of power restrictions caused by the three-day week. Roy Tinsley, the Bramley commercial manager, said: "I don't know who was the more surprised. Eddie Waring at commentating on a winter night match in the afternoon or us at winning the thing."

Widnes are back at Bramley this weekend. At odds of 2,500-1, one or two incurable optimists have wagered on history being repeated, this time in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Reality for Bramley, though has never been as harsh: bottom of the second division, a mountainous debt and a delapidated home ripe for demolition.

As hopeless tasks go, Bramley are determinedly cheerful about the fourth-round tie tomorrow, against the finalists last season, and the future in general. The average crowd of 600 should be trebled, which will help with the wages bill, and a last big-time atmosphere at the ground would be a fitting memory before a proposed move to Farsley Celtic football club, two miles away, next season.

"Wingers can lose themselves in the corners of the pitch with our lights," Tinsley said. "Everything at Farsley is ideal, so I am optimistic." Present facilities are pretty basic. Four portable toilets have been hired for the Widnes match. "We might even get a policeman up here," Tinsley said.

Although still known as the "Villagers," Bramley has long since had its identity smothered by the Leeds metropolis. A hard-core support is no longer in Bramley, and talk of moving grounds merely brings disinterested shrugs among the local people. With Leeds, Bradford Northern and Hunslet within a five-mile radius, the club has always had to scratch a living.

On a foul Tuesday night, the pitch was in need of the sort of bailing that has kept Bramley afloat the past decade. Within the dingy confines of the home dressing-room, Ray Ashton, the Bramley player-coach, led the circuit training and chatter. "You've got to gee them up, have a laugh, or spirits would sink," he said. With two league wins in 12 months, this is not always easy.

But after succeeding Maurice Bamford last September, Ashton's gung-ho philosophy of attacking rugby is lifting heads and expectations, following three cup victories and several close results.

The Challenge Cup is also in the minds of Warrington, who have Bob Jackson, their Australian forward, back as a substitute after a three-month injury lay-off for today's televised fourth-round tie at fifth-placed Halifax, and Wigan, who begin their quest tomorrow for a seventh consecutive Challenge Cup with a seemingly straight-forward task at home to Wakefield Trinity.

☐ Harry Gration, the radio commentator and television presenter, has been appointed public affairs executive by the Rugby Football League.

International calls deplete club strengths

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

SEVERAL clubs facing important matches in the Pizza Express National League tomorrow will be below strength because of England's participation in the European indoor hockey championship at Bonn in Germany.

East Grinstead will be without David Luckes, their goalkeeper, but Alistair Boyse, a promising young half back, who recently joined them from Lewes, is in the squad for the away match against Southgate. John Shaw, the Southgate captain, withdrew from the indoor team but their defence will feel the strain without Soma Singh, who has helped them to survive many a crisis.

Matthew Cross, who had been out of action for several weeks with a strained calf muscle, is available for Havant and they will need him when they visit Teddington without the top-class forwards, Don Williams and Peter Nail. Teddington will have to find replacements for Jason Laslett, their captain, and Phillip McGuire.

Hounslow, who left the issue in the first division wide open after losing 1-0 to Havant last week, will have to work hard without Robert Crutchley against Cannock, who are always difficult to beat at home. Nick Thompson will be missing from the Old Loughtonians forward line away to Trojans.

Surbiton, with a five-point lead over Guildford in the second division, seem likely to stay on top after their home match against Brooklands. Guildford can expect maximum points from their visit to Warrington but third-placed Barford Tigers will face strong opposition from Edgbaston.

In the European indoor championship, England made sure of a place in the semi-finals from pool B by defeating Russia 10-5 and the Czech Republic 9-6. Against Russia, Crutchley scored five goals and Philip McGuire claimed three, with Julian Halls and Thompson adding the other two.

England trailed 5-4 at half-time to the Czech Republic after McGuire had scored three quick goals to add to one netted by Crutchley in the first minute. The Czechs increased their lead to 6-4 early in the second half before England replied with goals from Jason Laslett (2), Don Williams, Thompson and Singh from a corner.

RESULTS: Pool A: Germany 6 Austria 2; Spain 4 France 8; Austria 9 Spain 5; Germany 10 France 1. Pool B: Czech Republic 8 Denmark 5; England 10 Russia 5; England 9 Czech Republic 6; Russia 11 Denmark 4.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated
* all-ticket match

FOOTBALL

FA Cup
Fourth round
* Cardiff v Man City
* Charlton v Blackburn
Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday
* Grimsby v Aston Villa
* Ipswich v Tottenham
* Kidderminster v Preston
* Newcastle United v Luton
Notts County v West Ham United
Oldham v Stoke
* Oxford Utd v Leeds United
Plymouth v Barnsley
* Port Vale v Wolverhampton
* Stockport v Bristol City (12.0)
Wimbledon v Sunderland

Coca-Cola Cup
Fifth round, replay
Tranmere v Nottingham Forest

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby v Watford							
Crystal Palace	28	15	4	7	45	30	49
Charlton	27	14	6	7	35	25	48
Millwall	27	13	8	6	37	28	47
Leicester	27	13	7	7	47	32	46
Tranmere	28	13	6	9	39	33	45
Notts Forest	26	12	8	6	41	30	44
Derby	26	13	3	10	42	39	42
Wolves	27	10	12	5	41	27	42
Stoke	27	12	6	9	37	39	42
Southend	28	12	4	12	44	38	40
Bolton	28	10	9	9	36	32	39
Bristol City	28	10	8	10	30	33	38
Portsmouth	27	9	10	8	31	34	37
Sunderland	27	11	4	12	29	34	37
Notts County	27	11	3	13	38	47	36
Middlesbrough	26	8	10	8	34	28	34
Luton	28	9	5	12	32	34	32
Grimsby	26	6	12	8	31	30	30
Watford	27	7	7	13	40	53	28
Birmingham	28	7	7	14	29	43	28
West Brom	27	6	8	13	37	44	26
Oxford Utd	28	6	8	14	32	50	26
Barnsley	27	6	7	14	31	45	25
Peterborough	25	5	6	12	22	31	96

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Haverfordwest; Briton Ferry v Maesteg Park; Caernarvon v Holywell; Conwy v Connah's Quay (2.30); Cwmbran v Ebbw Vale (2.30); Flint Town Utd v Newtown; Inter Cardiff v Llanelli; Llansantffraid v Porthmadog; Mold v Bangor; Ton Pentre v Afan Lido.

UNDER-18 SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales v Ireland (at Fishguard, 11.0).

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Chippenham Town; Calne Town v Bristol Manor Farm; Liskeard Athletic v Crediton Utd; Mangotsfield Utd v Minehead; Odd Down v Exmouth Town; Paulton Rovers v Thornbury Town; Taunton Town v Frome Town; Westbury Utd v Torrington.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Atherton LR v Ellesmere Port; Bacup Borough v Prescot; Blackpool Rovers v Chadderton; Bootle v Eastwood Hanley; Bradford Park Avenue v Kidsgrove Athletic; Darwen v Burscough; Glossop North End v Nantwich Town; Maine Road v Clitheroe; Newcastle Town v Penrith; Salford City v St Helens Town; Skelmersdale v Rossendale.

Second division
* Barnet v Brentford
Brighton v Blackpool
Bristol Rovers v Huddersfield
Burnley v Cambridge Utd
Exeter v Bournemouth
Leyton Orient v Hull
York v Bradford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	27	17	7	3	55	27	58
Plymouth	28	14	6	8	46	32	48
Bristol Rovers	28	14	6	8	36	28	48
Stockport	24	14	5	5	42	22	47
Brentford	27	12	9	6	36	24	45
Burnley	28	13	4	9	43	33	43
Port Vale	28	12	7	9	42	28	43
Hull	27	12	7	8	41	35	43
York	27	11	8	10	37	27	39
Bradford	28	11	6	9	35	33	39
Cambridge Utd	27	10	7	10	40	39	37
Leyton Orient	27	9	8	10	33	36	35
Blackpool	27	10	4	13	41	49	34
Bournemouth	24	8	8	8	28	30	32
Wrexham	28	8	7	13	40	42	31
Huddersfield	28	8	7	13	28	33	31
Cardiff	24	6	10	8	36	40	28
Rotherham	28	7	7	14	34	41	28
Swansea	24	7	7	10	27	34	28
Fulham	27	7	5	15	28	39	26
Exeter	28	6	7	15	32	44	25
Brighton	26	5	10	11	26	41	25
Hartlepool	27	5	5	17	21	41	20
Barnet	25	2	5	18	24	53	11

Not including match last night

Dilotoni League
Premier division
Aylesbury v Wokingham
Basingstoke v Marlow
Carshalton v Wivenhoe
Dorking v Bromley
Dulwich v Hendon
Grays v Chesham

OTHER MATCHES: Harrow v Enfield; Hitchin v Hayes; St Albans v Kingstonian; Sutton United v Molesey; Yeading v Stevenage Borough. First division: Abingdon Town v Whyteleafe; Barking v Ruislip Manor; Billericay Town v Boghor Regis Town; Chalfont St Peter v Bishops Stortford; Heybridge Swifts v Leyton; Maidenhead Utd v Wembley; Purfleet v Staines Town; Uxbridge v Croydon; Walton and Hersham v Boreham Wood; Windsor and Eton v Tooting and Mitcham; Worthing v Berkhamsted Town. Second division: Aldershot Town v Rainham Town; Banstead Athletic v Saffron Walden Town; Collier Row v Ausley; Edgware Town v Tilbury; Hampton v Ware; Hemel Hempstead v Egham Town; Hungerford Town v Barton Rovers; Leatherhead v Metropolitan Police; Lewes v Newbury Town; Maldon Vale v Witham; Thame Utd v Chertsey Town. Third division: Bracknell Town v Cove, Cheshunt v Leighton Town; Clapton v Camberley Town; East Thurrock Utd v Hertford Town; Feltham and Hounslow B v Packwell Heath; Hanwell Utd v Tring Town; Harlow Town v Southall; Hornchurch v Epsom and Ewell; Kingsbury Town v Horsham; Northwood v Oxford City.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballyclare v Glentoran; Carrick v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Distillery; Glenavon v Ballymena; Larne v Bangor; Newry v Coleraine; Omagh Town v Linfield; Portadown v Ards.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Manchester United (2.0). Second division: West Bromwich Albion v Oldham (2.0).

Third division
Bury v Scarborough
Colchester v Gillingham
Crewe v Chesterfield
Darlington v Scunthorpe
Lincoln v Rochdale
Mansfield v Wigan
Northampton v Doncaster
Shrewsbury v Wycombe
Torquay v Chester
Walsall v Carlisle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewe	24	15	6	3	51	32	51
Wycombe	25	13	6	6	45	34	47
Preston	24	12	7	5	54	38	43
Walsall	25	12	7	6	33	27	43
Shrewsbury	23	12	6	5	39	26	42
Bury	25	11	5	9	39	33	38
Torquay	25	9	11	5	39	35	38
Chester	23	11	5	7	35	25	38
Rochdale	23	10	6	7	36	31	36
Scunthorpe	24	9	9	6	36	21	36
Colchester	24	9	5	10	40	47	32
Chesterfield	24	9	5	10	33	39	32
Mansfield	25	8	7	11	28	38	31
Doncaster	25	9	4	13	28	40	31
Carlisle	25	7	8	9	32	28	30
Scarborough	25	8	5	12	29	37	29
Gillingham	24	7	8	9	28	31	29
Lincoln	22	8	4	10	32	38	28
Darlington	25	5	9	12	29	41	24
Wigan	24	5	7	12	31	45	22
Hereford	25	5	5	15	33	50	20
Northampton	24	2	6	16	28	48	12

GM Vauxhall Conference
Bromsgrove v Macclesfield
Dagenham and R v Altrincham
Dover v Stafford
Merthyr v Gateshead (1.30)
Runcorn v Witton
Stalybridge v Bath
Telford v Slough
Welling v Halifax
Woking v Southport
Yeovil v Kettering

Northern Premier League
Premier division
Accrington Stanley v Knowsley Utd
Barrow v Frickley
Boston v Colwyn Bay
Chorley v Matlock
Emley v Bishop Auckland
Hyde v Horwich
Leek v Morecambe
Whitley Bay v Droylsden
Winsford v Buxton

OTHER MATCHES: Bridlington Town v Marine; Fleetwood v Gainsborough. First division: Congleton Town v Netherfield; Curzon Ashton v Gretna; Eastwood Town v Radcliffe Borough; Farsley Celtic v Ashton Utd; Goole Town v Bamber Bridge; Harrogate Town v Workington; Moseley v Alfreton Town; Spennymoor Utd v Lancaster City; Warrington Town v Guiseley; Worksop Town v Carnforth Town.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley v Chelmsford; Burton v Crawley Town; Cheltenham v Cambridge City; Farnborough v Nuneaton; Halesowen v Trowbridge; Hastings v Moor Green; Salisbury v Corby Town; Solihull v Dorchester; Waterlooville v Gloucester; Worcester v Atherstone. Midland division: Armitage v Forest Green Rovers; Bilston Town v Bedworth United; Dudley Town v RC Warwick; Evesham United v Hinckley Town; Grantham Town v Clevedon Town; Leicester United v Bridgnorth Town; Newport AFC v Sutton Coldfield Town; Stourbridge v VS Rugby; Tamworth v Kings Lynn; Weston-super-Mare v Rushden and Diamonds; Yate Town v Redditch United. Southern division: Ashford Town v Salisbury City; Baldock Town v Newport IoW; Bury Town v Canterbury City; Erith and Belvedere v Burnham; Fareham Town v Dunstable; Margate v Wealdstone; Poole Town v Gravesend and Northfleet; Sudbury Town v Buckingham Town; Tonbridge AFC v Havant Town; Weymouth v Fisher '93; Witney Town v Braintree Town.

Tennent's Scottish Cup
Third round
Airdrie v Dunfermline
Alloa v Ross County
Arbroath v Dundee Utd
Clydebank v Dundee
East Stirling v Aberdeen (at Falkirk)
Hibernian v Clyde
Kilmarnock v Ayr
Morton v Cowdenbeath
Motherwell v Celtic
Partick v Hearts
Raith v Brechin
Rangers v Dumbarton
St Johnstone v Hamilton
St Mirren v Montrose
Stirling v Berwick
Stranraer v Falkirk

Scottish League
Second division
Albion v East Fife
Queen's Park v Meadowbank
Stenhousemuir v Queen of the South

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Bath v Orrell
Bristol v Harlequins
Leicester v Gloucester
London Irish v Northampton
Newcastle Gosforth v Wasps

Second division
Moseley v Nottingham
Otley v London Scottish (2.15)
Rugby v West Hartlepool
Wakefield v Saracens (2.30)
Waterloo v Sale (2.15)

Third division
Coventry v Blackheath
Fylde v Bedford (2.30)
Havant v Richmond (2.30)
Redruth v Morley (2.30)
Rosslyn Park v Exeter (2.30)

Fourth division
Askeans v Liverpool St Helens (2.30)
Broughton Park v Aspatria (2.30)
Harrogate v Sudbury (2.15)
Leeds v Caton (2.30)
Plymouth v Sheffield

Fifth division north
Birmingham/Solihull v Walsall
Durham v Preston Grasshoppers (2.15)
Kendal v Wirrington Park
Lichfield v Rotherham (2.30)
Nuneaton v Bradford and Bingley (2.15)
Stoke-on-Trent v Stourbridge (2.30)

Fifth division south
Basingstoke v Tabard (2.30)
Berry Hill v London Welsh
Camborne v Met Police
High Wycombe v Southend
Lydney v Maidstone
Weston-super-Mare v Reading

McEwan's Scottish League
First division
2.30 kick-off
Selkirk v Jed-Forest
Stirling County v Hawick
West of Scotland v Currie

Second division
Dundee HSFP v Haddington
Kirkcaldy v Glasgow Acads
Musselburgh v Biggar
Peebles v Preston Lodge

Heineken League
First division
2.30 kick-off
Bridgend v Newport
Cross Keys v Newbridge
Llanelli v Cardiff
Neath v Aberavon
Pontypool v Swansea
Pontypridd v Durvant

Second division
Abertillery v Mountain Ash
Ebbw Vale v Glamorgan Wanderers
Llandovery v Tenby Utd
Llanharan v Treorchy
Narberth v Maesteg
Penarth v South Wales Police P

Club matches
2.30 kick-off
Clarkston v East Kilbride
Gala v Melrose
Glasgow High v Edinburgh Acads (2.30)
Kelso v Wigtownshire (2.30)
North Walsham v Eton Manor
Stewart's Melville FP v Heriot's FP
Vale of Lune v Hereford
Watsonians v Edinburgh Wand (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round
Halifax v Warrington

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second round: Beverley v Barrow Island (2.0); Dewsbury Celtic v Lock Lane (2.0). Premier division: Askam v Leigh MM (2.30); Egremont v Woolston (2.30). First division: East Leeds v Leigh East (2.30); Heworth v Wakey Central (2.30). Mayfield v Milom (2.30). Second division: Eastmoor v Milford (2.30); Greetland AR v York Acorn (2.30); Moldgreen v Blackbrook (2.30); Oldham St Anne's v Redhill (2.30).

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Second round: Brassmoulders v Oulton (2.0), Saddleworth v Swinton Victoria (2.0)

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division: Doncaster v Wermington (Dudsell Park, Scunthorpe 1.45).

ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE: Ban Rhydding v Highlown-Northern, Durham University v Southport; Norton v Blackburn, Timperley v Formby York v Alderley Edge.

NASTRO AZZURRO SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Anchorians v City of Portsmouth; Chichester v High Wycombe, Fareham v Dulwich, Gore Court v Maidenhead, Hampstead and Wm v Lyons, Old Kingstonians v Winchester; Oxford Hawks v Mid-Sussex, Spencer v Hamdon, Staines v Old Walcountians; Tulse Hill v Wimbledon Regionals; Hampshire/Surrey, Barclays Bank v London University; Basingstoke v Cream; Fleet v Lensbury; Merton v Worthing; Old Mid Whitgiftians v Old Edwardians, Old Tauntonians v Bournemouth, Oxshott v Camberley; Petersfield v Old Whitgiftians, Purley v Epsom, Weybridge Hawks v Barnes Kent/Sussex; Beckenham v Tunbridge Wells, Bexleyheath v Worthing; Blackheath v Sevenoaks, Bognor v Marden Russets, Brighton v Tonbridge, Crawley v Old Williamsonians, Eastbourne v Old Bordenians, Gravesend v Lewes, Herne Bay v Old Holcombians, Lloyds Bank v Horsham, Middlesex/Berks/Bucks and Oxon; City of Oxford v Bracknell, Eastcote v Ashford, Gerrards Cross v Amersham, Harrow v Wokingham, Hayes v Sunbury, HCC v Aylesbury, Marlow v NPL; Mill Hill v Richings Park; Milton Keynes v Ramgarha, Morris Motors v OMT.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Pelicans, Cambridge Univ v Crosby, Cholmsford v Bury St Edmunds, Colchester v Peterborough Town, Ipswich v Dereham, Old Southendian v Bechor's Stortford, Redbridge and Ilford v Luton, Welwyn Garden City v Stevenage, Westcliff v Norwich City.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Doncaster (8.0). Guildford v Hemel (8.0); Leicester v London (7.30), Manchester v Chester (7.30), Oldham v Worthing (8.0); Sunderland v Thames Valley (7.30).

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Sedgefield, Plymouth v Crystal Palace, Scient v Coventry Ware v Bredon, Stockton v Sheffield. Second division: Leicester v Guildford, London v Chiltern, Northampton v Stevenage, Nottingham v Lewsham.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Barking and Dagenham Bobcats v South Tyneside; Birmingham Quality Cats v Bredon Lady Topcats, Northampton 89ers v Rhondda.

ICE HOCKEY

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v England

UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v England

BRITISH LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Trafford; Medway v Chelmsford, Milton Keynes v Durrines, Paisley v Streatham; Slough v Romford, Swindon v Telford.

BOWLS

EIBA INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: Teignbridge v Cyphers (at East Dorset, 10.30); Stanley v North Walsham (at Gedling, 1.0). Cambridge Park v Desborough (at Loddon Vale, 10.0), City of Ely v Thornaby (at Erewash, 12.0).

OTHER SPORT

FENCING: National épée championship (Pest Centre, Hendon).

RACKETS: Henderson British professional championship (Malvern).

TOMORROW

3.0 unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Cup
Fourth round
* Norwich v Man Utd (3.05)

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
Fulham v Reading (12.30)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division (2.30): Group A: Galway v Cork City; Shamrock Rovers v Bohemians. Group B: Cobh Ramblers v Limerick; Monaghan Utd v Dundalk.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round
Barrow v Bradford (3.15)
Batley v Keighley (3.15)
Bramley v Widnes
Carlisle v Workington (2.0)
Castleford v Salford (3.30)
Doncaster v Dewsbury
Highfield v Whitehaven
Huddersfield v St Helens (3.30)
Hull KR v Rvedale York (3.15)
Hunslet v Oldham
London Broncos v Featherstone (at Hendon FC)
Rochdale v Leeds
Sheffield v Leigh (3.15)
Swinton v Hull
Wigan v Wakefield

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division (2.30): Blackpool v Wigan St Patrick's; Chorley v Hemel Hempstead; Nottingham City v Dudley Hill.

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v Canterbury (Birmingham University, 2.30). Firebrands v Bromley (Longwood, Bristol, 2.0), Hounslow v Cannock (Chiswick Boathouse, 2.0); Reading v Welton (Sonning Lane, 2.0); Slough v Stourport (Wexham School, 2.0); Southgate v East Grinstead (Broomfield School, 2.0); St Albans v Indian Gymkhana (Birmingham University, 12.0); Teddington v Havant (Lensbury Club, 1.0), Trojans v Old Loughtonians (Stonetham Lane, Eastleigh, 1.30). Second division: Barford Tigers v Edgbaston (Holyhead LC, Birmingham, 1.0); Beeston v Sheffield (Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Cheltenham v Cambridge City (Bournside School, 2.0), Doncaster v Gloucester City (Dudsell Park, Scunthorpe, 2.0); Harleston Magpies v Richmond (Shotford Heath, 2.0); Ipsa v Herborne (Exeter School, 2.0); Neston v Oxford University (Neston RC, 2.0); Surbiton v Brooklands (Surbiton Road, 2.30); Warrington v Guildford (Broomfields Road, Appleton, 2.0).

TABLE TENNIS

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Launceston v St Neots; Sedgefield v Bath; Horsham Angels v Team Penate, BR, Grove v Wymura. First division north: Cheltenham v West Warwickshire; Sedgefield v Milton Keynes; Sunderland v Humberside; BR, Grove v Lincoln. First division south: Brentwood v Reading, Haringey v Regents BR, Grove v Lenham.

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Winchwich Bolton v Sale, Brabrina Music City v Dynamo London; KLEA Leeds v Achcombie Guildford Spectrum; Wessex v Pudsbrook.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Birmingham Bullets (6.0); Doncaster Panthers v Guildford Kings (5.0); Thames Valley Tigers v Oldham Celtics (6.0).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Chester Cass v Sheffield Hatters; Ipswich v Thames Valley Ladies; London Jets v Bristol Lady Topcats; Birmingham Quality Cats v Nottingham Wildcats. Second division: Cardiff Flyers v Doncaster Free Press; Harlesden Amazons v Luton Aces.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils; Durham Wasps v Basingstoke, Fife Flyers v Nottingham Panthers, Humberside Seahawks v Billingham Bombers, Murrayfield Racers v Peterborough Pirates, Whitley Warriors v Sheffield Steelers. First division: Chelmsford Chieftains v Swindon Wildcats; Durrines v Streatham Redskins; Guildford v Medway Bears; Oxford Stars v Lee Valley Lions; Romford Raiders v Slough Jets; Telford Tigers v Paisley Pirates; Trafford Metros v Milton Keynes Kings.

NETBALL

ENGLISH COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Mid-Herts v East Essex (1.0), Surrey v Hampshire (1.0), Bedfordshire v Birmingham (2.0), Essex Metropolitan v Middlesex (2.30). Second division: Humberside v West Yorkshire (12.0). Third division: Gloucester v West Devon (12.15).

NATIONAL CLUBS LEAGUE: First division: BICC v Aquila (11.0); Tongham v Hertford Hornets (1.0); Harborne v Linden (1.0). Second division: Hornsey v OPA (1.0); Vauxhall Golds v Hirondelles (12.0), Henley v YWCA (1.30). Third division: Wirral v Huddersfield (3.0), Wokingham v Essex Wanderers (11.30), Oakeway v Weston Park (12.30), Chevrons v Kelmscott (2.30).

TENNIS

WOMEN'S VAUXHALL INDOOR TROPHY: Fourth round: Watchorn Alfreton v Boston; Long Road Cambridge v Lexenham Norwich; Edgbaston Priory v Lincoln Indoor Puma Welwyn v Connaught, Welwyn Spin v Batchwood St Albans; Copers v Carlton, Surrey Country Club v BBC; Dewd Lloyd Eastbourne v Chris Lane Woking.

OTHER SPORT

FENCING: National épée championship (Pest Centre, Hendon).

RACKETS: Henderson British professional championship (Malvern).

Saturday portrait: Terry Venables by Rob Hughes, football correspondent

An Eastender whose tale has more twists than any soap opera

Just as a fox leaves a scent, so Terence Frederick Venables gives off an essence that arouses some to try to hound him out of the sporting field, and others to go to extraordinary lengths to protect, promote, and keep him. Without a doubt, the followers of Tel Boy are in the ascendancy this morning.

His appointment as England coach yesterday was deeply disconcerting. Venables, without question, is the choice of the professional coaches in the clubs as an innovator and a coach of tactical and motivational qualities.

However, so much accusation surrounding him lies insufficiently answered, his threats to sue for libel have not reached any court, and it speaks for itself that the FA have taken an almighty gamble on Venables' probity, and the standing of their own body should the appointment become embroiled in ugly court cases.

At the heart of all allegations, none of them proven, are Venables' unfortunate choice of friends and advisers. He was sacked by Spurs because he refused to dispense with his personal financial adviser, Eddie Ashby, a declared bankrupt 43 times over. His friendship with the players' agent, Eric Hall, compounded the disquiet felt when it was disclosed that he had rewarded another friend, an Italian restaurateur, Gino Santin, by authorising the payment by Spurs of £200,000 to Santin to help smooth the transfer of Paul Gascoigne to Lazio, of Rome.

Furthermore, the Premier League has not yet concluded its investigation into affairs at Tottenham, relating to payments to agents and to illegal sums of money to players during Venables' time in management.

Ambition had been the thing which most club owners had feared in him; some must surely have coveted the coaching acumen, the overseas experience and the adherence to style which have long been Venables's hallmarks. But they feared his wiles, and most of all the likelihood that had they given Venables a break, he might have finished trying to buy them out.

By any standards, his last year has been phenomenal. He has gone from Lord of White Hart Lane to landlord of Scribes West, the dining club in Kensington, west London, which he somehow rescued from bankruptcy by coming up with £150,000 to pay off a creditor just 12 days ago.

Contrast this to last November, the month of Graham Taylor's resignation as England manager, when Venables was captured, lonely as that fox, in his own lair. "I've been in this business 35 years without a blemish," he told a journalist. "And all of a sudden, I'm a crook, I'm naive, I'm a fraud, and I'm out of the running for the England job. That's hard to take."

Hard indeed. His clash of East End egos with the Tottenham Hotspur chairman Alan Sugar, who fired him last summer as chief executive of the club, had been followed by two television programmes, *Panorama* and *Dispatches* making deep, potentially ruinous allegations , concerning the way that he raised £1 million towards his share of the money which rescued Spurs from the knacker's yard. It was all, he said again and again, nothing short of a conspiracy, full of innuendo and unsustainable allegations designed to hound him out.

> "The FA said Venables was the man they wanted, the best coaching brain"

He asked the police to investigate in early October and when one detective inspector said a couple of weekends ago that they could find no evidence of fraud against Venables, the FA suddenly went public and said Venables was their man, that they were concerned with signing the best coaching brain, not an accountant.

In choosing Venables, they had, subconsciously perhaps, given themselves the opportunity, the hope, of turning a complete football circle. For Venables was brought up in Bonham Road, Dagenham, which happens to be three streets away from where Alf Ramsey was raised. What Ramsey could achieve — managing England to win the World Cup in 1966 — Venables might be able emulate in the European championship thirty years on.

And might Venables, like Sir Alf, end up knighted? It would be some journey for Venables, who left secondary school without qualifications at 15, who was first apprenticed to Chelsea in 1958, and who worked in the swimming baths at Barking during the summer to help buy himself a new Hillman car, which after regular crashes, had to be sold at a loss.

"He does everything at 100 miles an hour," his father, Fred Venables, said this week. "He lives at that speed, drives at that speed. Terry's schedule frightens the life out of me."

The life of Terry, begun 51 years ago, always seemed to be on a faster road than that of his father, who progressed from working in the docks at Dagenham, through lorry driving, to his current occupation as mine host of a public house in Chingford, Essex.

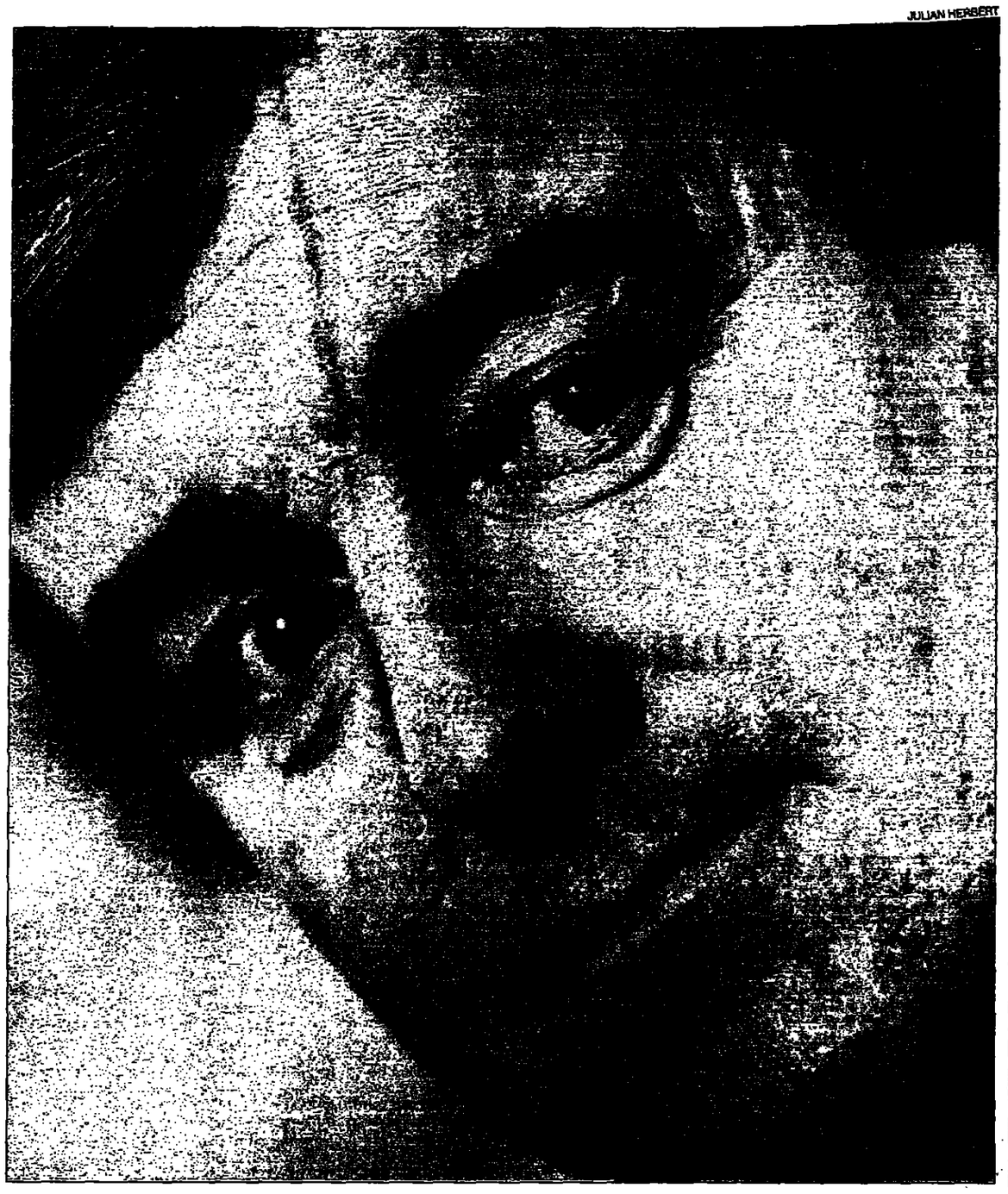
But Terry was always his mother's boy, and was devastated when Myrtle, died in 1990. From her, he acquired the lyrical side that many have seen in him; it was from her father, Ossie, that he gained an early love of football.

She had put Terry on the stage at four, a member of the Happy Toppers dance troupe in Dagenham. He progressed to singing with the Joe Loss Orchestra at the Hammersmith Palais, while playing not only with Chelsea, but rising through every rank of international footballing honour from schoolboy to two full international caps for England.

The rest has been catalogued many times over: Venables the football coach and television panellist, the part-owner of the club, Scribes and pubs, former players' agent, novelist and TV scriptwriter.

Throughout it all, he had a dramatic, always divisive effect on the media. There are those who can see no ceiling for their friend, Tel but there are those, left outside the clique, who are open to the views of opponents such as Alan Sugar.

Venables has instinctively understood, and milked, the press. He knows some of them better than they know themselves, and others were more than willing conduits when the hunt for an England manager began, and when relentless campaigns in certain tabloids finally lodged in the FA minds, when the gentlemen of Lancaster Gate decided to hell with the possible scandals, they would ride with Terry Venables.


JULIAN HERBERT

They had been charmed. Many people are, and Venables can be irresistible company. In May, 1984, when he succeeded Argentina's World Cup-winning coach, Cesar Menotti, as the £8,000-a-week coach to Barcelona, he bewitched the politically minded Barcelona president, Jose-Luis Nuñez. "There were more famous coaches than me in the running," Venables is fond of recalling. "But when I was over there for the interview, Nuñez flipped open his cigar box, and to his embarrassment, it was empty. I reached into my sock, and produced two cigars."

The ice melted. Venables, the cheeky chappie, had won over the doubting president in two puffs of smoke.

He was dismissed two seasons later, but that, as doubtless his England tenure will eventually confirm, is football: you win some, you lose some.

Toshack picks up baton for Wales

By Keith Pike

WALES, like England, have turned to a man whose football pedigree was confirmed after he had made a success of club management in Spain. Four hours before Terry Venables was paraded at Wembley yesterday, John Toshack was appointed the Principality's coach in succession to Terry Yorath.

Unlike Venables, Toshack's initial task will be to secure a place for Wales in the European championship finals in 1996. England, as hosts, qualify automatically. In contrast, too, is the stature of the position. Toshack has been appointed on a part-time basis at a salary thought to be around £70,000 a year.

Toshack will combine his new duties with his present job as general manager of Real Sociedad and, while he will have the assistance of Mike Smith, the Wales manager from 1974 to 1979, whose return had not been anticipated, his appointment will be seen by some as a backward step.

Toshack said yesterday that he envisaged few problems in combining the two roles. It was probable that, during qualifying for the European championships, Spain would have matches on the same dates as Wales, meaning there would be no league football in Spain. He confirmed, though, that Real had first call on his services. "If it didn't work out like that and there was a cup match for Real, for example, which clashed with a Wales match, there would be no argument," he said. "Real would have priority."

Yorath refused to comment on his departure after nearly six years in charge, although he has promised to make a statement today. His fate was determined by a couple of inches. Had Paul Bodin's penalty not rebounded from the crossbar, when Wales needed to beat Romania at Cardiff Arms Park in November to qualify for the World Cup finals, he might now be planning for a summer in the United States.

Might. It is conceivable that even a Welsh victory would not have guaranteed the offer of a new deal to Yorath, whose contract expired on December 31. The Football Association of Wales (FAW) had refused to discuss one with him before their defeat by Romania, and after it had made abortive attempts to secure the services of both Venables and Bobby Robson.

The FAW's desire for a manager with a high profile has been satisfied, though, by the appointment of Toshack, 44, the Cardiff-born striker who scored 13 goals in 40 appearances for his country. "He has the desire to win," Alun Evans, the FAW chief executive, said. "He reminds me very much of Jack Charlton in that he will not be diverted from the path to success."

It was essential, Evans said, that the structure of Welsh football was changed. "There will be continuity that we have never had before. It is the European pattern we have gone for rather than the British pattern."

Toshack's partnership with Kevin Keegan helped establish Liverpool as one of the leading club sides in Europe in the 1970s, winning three championships, the FA Cup, the European Cup in 1977, and the Uefa Cup twice. As a manager he led Swansea City from the fourth division to the first in four seasons, and has since enjoyed considerable success abroad.

Toshack helped Sporting Lisbon finish runners-up in the Portuguese League, Sociedad to the Spanish Cup, and Real Madrid to the championship before being dismissed after 18 months and returning to San Sebastian three years ago. In March 1991 he turned down the chance to become Liverpool's manager after Kenny Dalglish's resignation.

"Having had that kind of experience, technically and tactically, will be an advantage," Toshack said. "It is a challenge I am keen to take on." His post carries the title of technical director.

Villa take heed from Liverpool's exit

By Keith Pike

FA CUP

LIVERPOOL and Graeme Souness, their manager, who resigned yesterday, would be hard-pressed to agree with the sentiments of Ron Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, who believes Bristol City have done the country's elite clubs a favour with their FA Cup replay victory at Anfield on Tuesday. "If anyone needed a sharp reminder of what can happen, then Bristol's win certainly provided it," Atkinson said yesterday.

Seven Premiership clubs have already failed to survive to fourth-round weekend, and three more could be eliminated between this afternoon and Monday night when the holders, Arsenal, play Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. At best there will be 12 in the draw for the fifth round tomorrow, at worst, three. Villa are among those most at risk. They are away to Grimsby Town in one of five ties featuring Endsleigh Insurance League sides at home to Premiership opponents. Forewarned is not necessarily forearmed, though.

"I was manager at Manchester United when we lost at Bournemouth and, on a given day, any team from a lower division can get a result against you," Atkinson said. That was in 1984, but six years later Villa were knocked out of the League Cup on the away-goals rule, by Grimsby.

Villa struggled to overcome Exeter City in the third round but can take comfort from the best away record in the country — two defeats in 20 matches. With Alan Shearer in such breathtaking form (26 goals since returning from injury in September, including 17 in his last 14 games and at least one in each of his last seven), Blackburn Rovers should also be too strong for Charlton Athletic at The Valley, while the return of Rod Wallace will strengthen Leeds United's hand when they take on Oxford United at the Manor Ground.

The most likely venue for an upset is Ninian Park, where Manchester City's fragility will be tested by a Cardiff City team in good form after a dismal start to the season. The Welsh club has reached this stage for only the second time in 17 years and the injury that rules out Phil Stant, whose goals helped account for Middlesbrough, could be offset by the absence of Curle from the Manchester defence.

Chelsea, at home to Sheffield Wednesday, and Tottenham Hotspur, away to Ipswich Town, will be left with only relegation to worry about if they lose today. Chelsea will be without Wise, their captain, for the fifth successive game, but Glenn Hoddle's problems are nothing compared to those of Osvaldo Ardiles, who has four players out injured, three others doubtful and his latest recruit, Rosenthal, ineligible.

What they would give to be in Alex Ferguson's shoes. The Manchester United manager has only to decide whether to recall one international, Hughes, who has completed a suspension, for another, McClair, against Norwich City at Carrow Road tomorrow.

United are unbeaten in 28 matches since September 22 and are still on course for a unique treble, but Cup incentives come in many forms, and nobody will be trying harder than Wolverhampton Wanderers. They travel to Port Vale knowing that victory at Wembley in May will earn them and their partners a free holiday in the Bahamas, courtesy of Sir Jack Hayward, the club's owner.

"If we win the FA Cup, the sky will be the limit for the players," Sir Jack, who lives on the islands, said. "I could then die a happy man. There is a mystique about the competition. Playing at Wembley in front of a full house is beyond price."

Celtic try to salvage season at Motherwell

By Kevin McCarra

CELTIC yet again face their own winter shutdown. A year ago, defeat at Falkirk in the third round of the Tennents Scottish Cup effectively ended their season. Lou Macari's team, already lagging in the league, travel to meet Motherwell today in a tie that could leave them to slouch gloomily through the next four months.

For once, Celtic are the club in need of a shock result in the Cup. Motherwell are full of performers Macari might hanker after and though Phil O'Donnell, the midfield player, seems to be swathed in a hubbub of praise at present, there are other internationals in the team.

Although the 3-1 victory over Raith Rovers on Wednesday was uneven, it was also the performance of a team which has acquired the knack of winning. Celtic, with three defeats and two draws in 1994, have conspicuously mislaid that expertise. Nor are today's visitors to Fir Park equipped to match Motherwell's goal-scoring prowess.

Celtic may even be steeling themselves for an impending irony. Tommy Coyne, the Republic of Ireland striker was on their books before joining Motherwell after a spell with Tranmere Rovers. At Parkhead, his reputation never matched his record. Coyne may have averaged a goal every couple of games, but the focus was always on the technical flaws. Such lofty criteria were abandoned some time ago. Celtic would no longer quibble with any man's methods so long as he made the nets shudder now and again.

If the result of this tie remains in doubt, it is because of the identities of the two clubs rather than those of the players they will field. Tattered though it may be, Celtic retain a sense of their own status in football and Motherwell must shake off the deference it can provoke in others.

Mercer delights in high-flying Harriers

Walter Gammie talks to the man who has seen Kidderminster's rise up the non-league ladder

THE Kidderminster Harriers that Ray Mercer joined in 1959 did not attract the queues that formed outside the Aggborough Stadium offices this week in orderly pursuit of tickets for the Harriers' FA Cup fourth-round tie against Preston North End today.

"My first job as assistant secretary was to write to Gravesend to ask them for £25 so we could afford to travel to play them in a Southern League match," Mercer, the club secretary for 20 years, said. "We got the money: I don't know they ever got it back." Mercer remembers a crowd of 198 for a home match against Merthyr Tydfil. At the end of that season, hard-up Harriers resigned from the Southern League and dropped into the Birmingham (later West Midlands) League.

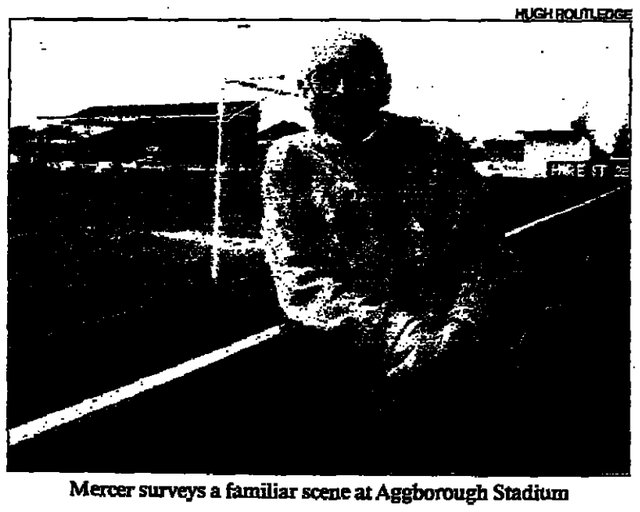
The subsequent ascent to the top of the GM Vauxhall Conference has been steady — punctuated with cup excitements: defeats by Hull, Peterborough and Brighton, after a replay, in the Sixties, matches against Blackburn and Millwall in 1979-80 and 1980-81, and trips to Wembley in the FA Trophy in 1987 and 1991. Apart from 2½ seasons at Bromsgrove, first reporting for the *Sports Argus*, Birmingham's Saturday evening paper, and then as secretary, Mercer has ridden every jolt of the ride.

Lucky indeed is the football club that can find an administrator who is almost born to the task. Mercer started in 1934 at the age of 11, a fresh-cheeked assistant secretary of Old Stotalians, the old boys of Clapham Central School, following his team round the stamping grounds of Hackney Marshes, Wormwood Scrubs and Tooting Common.

His talents were further deployed organising Army matches during wartime service in India, where he also refereed matches before 50,000 crowds in Calcutta, the Moslem-Hindu conflict flaring in violence on the terraces he has never seen surpassed. Mercer combined football with a job as publicity officer for Ensa, promoting visits to India and Burma of the stars of the day, Jack Hawkins, Tommy Trinder, Gracie Fields and Vera Lynn.

When Mercer arrived in Kidderminster in 1950, he found a job in the register office. He claims, roguish twinkle in undimmed eye, to "have married 12,000 women". It was as a referee who needed glasses — and was thus only allowed, under FA rules, to officiate as a stand-in — that Mercer came to the attention of Ted Gamson, a former first division referee, who was then secretary.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE


Mercer surveys a familiar scene at Aggborough Stadium

Early away trips were 18-hour days. "It wasn't just Gravesend, we seemed to have a lot of games in Kent, " Mercer said. "We went by train, starting from Birmingham at 6am. Players often used to get lost between Euston and Victoria and end up arriving by taxi." Travel nowadays is by coach. Before the return journeys, Mercer feeds the hungry. "Fish, chicken or pie," is the choice. He also organises pre-match meals — "Jon Purdie has peaches and cornflakes," he said. So the secret of the man who scored Kidderminster's spectacular winner in their victory at Birmingham in the third round is out.

"The club has kept level in its growth on the field and off the field," Mercer said. Now retired, he spends as much time each day at Aggborough as needed. "It seems to be nearly all day at the moment," he said, happy to be an old-fashioned servant of a thriving club, whose seven-strong full-time staff, including manager, commercial manager, ground manager and physiotherapist, work to take the Harriers further from those early days of begging and borrowing.

هكذا من الأصل

Lathwell's depressing tour continues with another failure

England's safety-first plan backfires

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PORT ELIZABETH

BY TAKING two wickets yesterday morning, before South Africa had broken the 200 barrier, England significantly improved their chances of winning the A Test here. By losing two wickets in the 24 overs left after the last four South African wickets had raised 160 runs, they must review a strategy that offers naught for their comfort.

Making predictions is a mug's game. All the same, here goes: England cannot expect to win from this position. They are 303 runs behind, with eight wickets in hand, and the ball has already turned appreciably for Eksteen, the left-arm spinner, who is bowling into the rough outside the left-hander's off stump.

At the moment, there are two left-handers in occupation. Mark Ilott, the night-watchman, joined Hugh Morris on the fall of John Crawley's wicket, which was a bitter disappointment.

Crawley had played beautifully for his 29 but 29s are not England's requirement. There was a suspicion that the decisive ball, bowled by Eric Simons, crept a bit. His stroke, aimed to leg across the line of it, was still injudicious.

Lathwell — one regrets to add, inevitably — failed again, caught behind off the fourth ball of the innings for a duck. His selection owed everything to the safety-first plan of playing all six specialist batsmen and his failure has scuppered that plan good and proper. Other than that it is almost impertinent to say anything at all. He is a deeply unhappy young man.

In that last session, England survived one or two further alarms. Morris was relieved to escape Meyrick Pringle's confident lbw shout before he had got off the mark and then prodded Eksteen just beyond Steyn's grasping fingers at silly mid-off. At least the captain is still on the bridge, warding off all-comers.

The tone of South Africa's batting yesterday was so dissimilar to the first day's plodding endeavours, that it was not difficult to divine the forthright advice of their coach, Eddie Barlow. Where Peter Such had been treated almost reverentially before, now the batsmen were willing to take him on by driving over the top.

Simons led the way after Ilott ended Adrian Kuiper's arid innings in which he faced 101 balls and scored just 12. He added 72 with Derek Crookes for the seventh wicket, then 36 with Eksteen and finally 52 with Pringle before he was out leg-before, sweeping at Croft, 12 runs short of what would have been his maiden first-class hundred.

Crookes signalled the fresh approach by lapping Croft for six to get off the mark. Pringle went two strokes better later, belting Such back over his head for half a dozen and putting Darren Gough on the roof adjoining the dressing rooms.

Had the South Africans batted as freely on the first afternoon, they could have set England a formidable score to shadow instead of merely a respectable one.

Such stuck manfully to his job, finishing with two for 88 at two an over. Ilott was the most successful bowler, taking three of the wickets to fall yesterday to make it four in the innings. He starts today with a bat in his hands so his job, unfamiliar though it may be, is not over. Not by a long way.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA A: First Innings

J M Arinur b Such	37
G F J Liebenberg lbw b Gough	79
P J R Steyn run out	23
*S J Cook c Atkins b Ilott	15
A P Kuiper lbw b Ilott	12
E O Simons lbw b Croft	66
†S J Palframan lbw b Ilott	4
D N Crookes c Wells b Such	41
C Eksteen c Rhodes b Ilott	14
M W Pringle lbw b Gough	33
A Mamya not out	0
Extras (lb5, nb6)	11
Total	357

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-87, 2-144, 3-149, 4-165, 5-191, 6-197, 7-269, 8-305, 9-357.

BOWLING: Ilott 34-11-71-4; Gough 28.1-9-64-2; Croft 33-7-94-1; Dale 15-2-35-0; Such 43-17-88-2.

ENGLAND A: First Innings

M N Lathwell c Palframan b Pringle	8
*H Morris not out	17
J P Crawley lbw b Simons	29
M C Ilott not out	1
Extras (lb5, nb1)	2
Total (2 wkts)	54

A P Wells, M B Loye, A Dale, †S J Rhodes, R D B Croft, D Gough and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-43.

BOWLING (to date): Pringle 5-0-12-1; Mamya 5-2-16-0; Simons 6-0-8-1; Eksteen 7-2-11-0; Crookes 1-0-1-0.

Restrained sparring marks first day of Test

FROM PETER ROEBUCK IN ADELAIDE

CRICKET can be a dreadfully disappointing game. This was a match, and a day, eagerly awaited, Australia's chance to level the series with South Africa after their extraordinary capitulation in those tumultuous closing minutes in Sydney.

For 24 days the match had been a talking point among cricketers, and on its dawn 18,277 arrived to watch it, almost filling the prettiest of grounds on the sunniest of days. And what happened? Precious little, as a matter of fact, as Australia made their way to 240 for four.

It was a day as shapeless and unsatisfying as a lump of dough. All sorts of factors combined to spoil the fun. For a start the pitch had no bounce and no life, although oddly it was lifters that took three of the wickets.

Moreover, the spontaneous batsmen, those retaining the indulgencies and indiscretions of youth, did not last long, leaving the work to be done by the Ponsfords and Lawrys of latter-day Australia, the diligent men who long ago forgot about frippery and put percentages in their place.

Finally, South Africa's approach was cautious, a team packed with batting, an attack lacking variety and defensive field placements almost throughout. The spectators had hoped for a bare-knuckle brawl, and instead saw much circling and tapping.

Only Michael Slater, recalled after the strangest absence since Agatha Christie disappeared for a few days, scored quickly, reaching 53 in 79 balls, before hooking Donald to cover via his head (Slater's that is, not Donald's). Donald had bowled a tepid first spell, but returned impressively, varying his pace and deserving his wickets. Slater's innings included several sumptuous drives and, as usual, his footwork told of an alert brain with the streak of impetuosity in it.

Taylor, meanwhile, had slowed after a bright start as Snell worried him by bowling around the wicket, cramping Taylor so that he scored only four runs in 29 balls at one stage. Neither Taylor nor Boon meant to surrender the initiative yet neither was prepared to take risks to keep it.

Nothing much changed after lunch (83 for one). South Africa bowling pace to a tight field and Australia advancing carefully. Taylor reached his 50 in 129 balls, only one of which was struck to the boundary, and Boon was a veritable celebration of solidity. An impasse had been reached, but the bowlers were tiring and South Africa turned to their only spinner, Garry Kirsten.

Quite a change has come over Kirsten's life. Two months ago he was toasting his toes in Cape Town, facing a winter of domestic cricket. Now he is South Africa's leading opening batsman, short leg and best spinner to boot. Until September he had not taken a single first-class wicket. As this Test began he had taken 14. He bowls off spin with a lowish arm and occasionally produces deliveries known hereabouts as "guzunders".

No batsman made much of him and Taylor, growing impatient at last, lost his wicket as he charged forward, missed and was bowled. It just shows that bowling average off breaks is easier than, for instance, hitting a wooden club onto the fairway.

Mark Waugh, whose batting in the World Series finals had been brilliant, did not last long, falling into a trap set by Cronje by cutting a catch to the squarer of two gulley fielders.

After tea (160 for three) Boon reached his half-century by pulling his 124th and 125th balls to the boundary, whereupon he hooked his 126th to long leg, who caught it, and left the field in no mood for genial conversation.

Australia might have crumpled but, though Border was dreadfully scratchy against Donald and Steve Waugh sorely troubled by rising deliveries, they survived to take their side to a reasonable if not formidable score. Which team pays for its timidity, time will tell. Cronje is the more likely of the two captains to be tossing and turning in his bed.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M A Taylor b G Kirsten	82
M J Slater c Rhodes b Donald	53
D C Boon c de Villiers b Donald	50
M E Waugh c Snell b McMillan	2
*A R Border not out	28
S R Waugh not out	32
Extras (lb 4, nb 9)	13
Total (4 wkts)	240

†I A Healy, P R Reiffel, S K Warne, C J McDermott and T B A May to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-152, 3-159, 4-188.

BOWLING: Donald 19-4-61-2 (3nb); de Villiers 19-6-45-0 (1nb); Snell 18-5-37-0; (2nb); McMillan 18-1-52-1 (3nb); Cronje 3-1-8-0; G Kirsten 16-8-32-1.

SOUTH AFRICA: A C Hudson, G Kirsten, P N Kirsten, *W J Cronje, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, †D J Richardson, P S de Villiers, A A Donald and R P Snell.

Umpires: T Prue, D Hair and S Davis (replay umpire).

Antiguans swapping leather and willow for basketball

Andrew Longmore explains why Michael Jordan is replacing Viv Richards as a hero

On a stretch of scrubland optimistically called the Joseph Levi Recreational Ground in St John's, Antigua, some youths are playing cricket. It is the traditional Caribbean picture — no pads, no proper stumps, a dirt track and lots of talent. Except that, in the background on a piece of rough concrete, a different ball game has attracted a far greater following.

Since cable television came to the Caribbean three years ago, basketball has become the fastest-growing sport not just in Antigua, but throughout the islands. On a count of framed prints in a shop window on St John's main street, Michael Jordan is as popular as Viv Richards or Richie Richardson, past and present West Indies captains.

In Antigua, opinions vary about how great a threat basketball will pose to the traditions of an island previously dedicated to cricket.

"Cricket is the biggest statement of nationality on the island," Fitzroy Brann, Antigua's fast-talking director of sports and games, said. "Our infrastructure is outdated and bankrupt, but we have the audacity to make a statement through our cricket." Antiguans love audacity.

Yet Brann, a bandana-toting demagogue responsible for the island's sporting policy, stands accused by cricket authorities of neglecting Antigua's most prestigious export in favour of an imported game.

"Basketball is a threat to cricket. No question," Victor Michael, a former member of the Antiguan Cricket Board, said. "Television has had a huge impact on kids. They can watch basketball every night and then go and practice. Unless better facilities are provided, we will struggle to keep the succession of great cricketers going."

Basketball courts have sprung up in villages all over the island, many of them funded by the government or perhaps even by the National Basketball Association itself.

Five years ago, there were maybe five courts in the whole of Antigua; now there are more than 30 supporting a host of leagues at every age group. To add to cricket's problems, many young Antiguans are emigrating to America and being replaced by immigrants from Dominica and Guyana, further diluting the instincts for cricket.

Brann denies the accusation that he is destroying cricket. "There are five times more cricketers in Antigua than basketball players and there always will be."

Yet, from the government's point of view, basketball has many strengths. It is cheap, aggressive, an ideal outlet for the nation's athleticism and a perfect substitute to bowling fast, the Antiguans' main expression of manhood.

Above all, the sport is played at night when kids on street corners are at their most vulnerable. "Basketball encourages kids to get off the street, away from drugs and crime and get involved in sport," Nyah Roberts, a coach on the basketball development programme, said. "Cricket still leaves kids nothing to do in the evenings."

The YMCA, just across the road from the ground in St John's where England will play the fifth Test in mid-April, has become known as "Clean Corner". It has three basketball courts and is packed with young Antiguans every night. A big sign says: "Don't do drugs".

Last year, two of the Antiguan Under-19 team which went to the world youth basketball championships in Milwaukee were taken on scholarships by American colleges. It would be debatable whether Curtly Ambrose, who narrowly chose cricket above basketball, would make the same decision now.

"Basketball can provide you with an education, so that you can come back here and earn more money. Cricket can't do that," Roberts said. Even Andy Roberts and Viv Richards have struggled to capitalise on their status since retiring as internationals.

"You know, kids here of 14 or 15 know everything about Michael Jordan," Adlai Carrott, a local cricket journalist, said. "If you ask about Viv Richards, they will know him, but not much about him. If you ask about Gary Sobers, they say: 'Who?'"

GRAHAM MORRIS



Antigua's youth flock to the basketball courts and turn their backs on cricket

Bowlers in spotlight

ENGLAND will field an almost full-strength attack for their three-day match against a combined XI from St Kitts and Nevis, which begins at the pretty little ground in Basseterre today (Andrew Longmore writes). Devon Malcolm will be unleashed for the first time along with Angus Fraser, his most likely new-ball partner for the first Test match in Jamaica next month. Chris Lewis and Phil Tufnell.

This is surely the quartet Mike Atherton, the England captain, will want to field for the serious business ahead, with either Andy Caddick and Steve Watkin, who both bowled impressively in Antigua, in support.

Athletics may pay heavily for controversy



SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

MOST of the rulers of the sport of athletics seem not to have been affected by anything like shame, sorrow, distress or even mild moral discomfort over the Andy Norman Case, but perhaps another still more potent force will have them paying attention. I am talking about that thing closest to the heart of every sport: money.

Norman is accused of spreading rumours about the journalist, Cliff Temple, and of adding considerably to the stresses that prompted his suicide. The sport has been lying low and talking about a future enquiry.

But *Marketing* magazine pinpoints trouble ahead from the lolly side of things. They quote Pearl Assurance, which pulled out of athletics sponsorship before the scandal broke, after spending £6 million on athletics. "Any incident like the one concerning Norman will have an impact on the way people look at the sport." Ken McKay, a Pearl spokesman, said. "If I were contemplating taking on sponsorship of athletics now, I would have serious words with the sport about what is happening. I probably would not be prepared to make a decision to commit a large volume of funds until the matter has been cleared up."

The magazine also quotes an athletics source as saying that any future sponsorship deals will be "substantially less" than its predecessors. Vauxhall and Panasonic are other companies that recently came to an end of athletics sponsorship contracts. It was Norman's grasp of financial realities that lifted him so high in the sport: an intriguing irony if the same moral force were to shove him out.

Friendly face

Here's a date for the diary, football fans: March 25 and a match infelicitously termed a friendly, between Argentina and Brazil. "Yes, we'll see each other again then," Romario, of Brazil, said of the Argentina international, Diego Simeone. The two met in Spain recently, Romario, perhaps the best centre forward now playing, appearing for Barcelona and Simeone for Sevilla. Romario was sent off and banned for four matches for punching Simeone. Romario claims provocation and Barcelona, preparing an appeal, back him up. "He repeatedly insulted me. He stamped on me twice and then carried on. Argentinians are all the same." This will run and run.

Fat chance

There should, perhaps, be a circle in hell for ministers of sport: a place filled with the bodies of the damned in which nothing ever happens. But before Virgil takes us to circles still deeper, we must gaze on the wretched Iain Sproat, who, though you may not be aware of this, is the incumbent. Having made the shattering and original observation that the younger generation is going to the dogs, etc, he seems to be preparing them for the ultimate hideousness. He is expected to come up with the notion that all school days should start even earlier — and must do so with team sports.

"We are developing a fat, flabby, unhealthy generation of children," he said this week. "I think it is time we did something about it." Sproat is surely aware that schoolchildren have no votes, otherwise the government would fall by landslide.

Pupils of the country, unite. Say to Mr Sproat: "All right. We will if you will. It has come to our attention that we are developing a fat, flabby unhealthy generation of politicians. We think it is time we did something about it."

Not so super

This is the weekend in which all enthusiasts for American sports can salute the achievements of Dallas. No, not the Dallas Cowboys, the football team heading for the second successive Super Bowl tomorrow. Nor the Texas Rangers baseball side, based in the Dallas suburb of Arlington, who are fancied to win their division this summer. Nor the Dallas Stars ice hockey team, currently challenging for the Western Conference championship.

No: let's hear it for the Dallas Mavericks basketball team, whose record stands at two wins and 38 defeats. They are hot in pursuit of the National Basketball Association's worst seasonal record of nine wins and 75 defeats, by the Philadelphia 76ers. The Mavs go into the weekend on a roll of 15 consecutive stuffings. This column's team of the year award surely beckons.



Slow to rise

Goalkeeper of the week is Isadore Irandir, a Brazilian who had the habit of dropping on his knees to pray before a game: thus a goal was scored against him three seconds after the start of a game, with Irandir still on his knees. The information comes from *Great Sporting Failures* by George Tibballs: and yes, this one is up-to-date enough to include the Grand National and the sixty glorious yards of knicker elastic.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Men: Semi-final series: Group A: CSP Limoges (Fr) 72 (M Young 13, M'Bahia 13, D Young 10) Guildford Kings 65 (Hanlan 14, Miller 11, Clark 10); Benetton Treviso (It) 89 KV Mechelen (Bel) 73; Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 79 Barcelona (Sp) 88. Group B: Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 74 Joventut Badalona (Sp) 82 (OT); Efes Pilsen (Tur) 68 Panathinaikos (Gr) 55; Pau-Orthez (Fr) 70 Virtus Bologna (It) 78.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Washington 98 Dallas 95; Cleveland 100 Chicago 84; Houston 113 Sacramento 97; Denver 113 Indiana 106, Seattle 102 New Jersey 92; New York 103 LA Clippers 101.

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BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: Gala Clubs SPA championship: Semi-finals: D Gourley Jr (Prestwick) bt M McDonald (Whasench) 7-4, 7-1; W W Wood (East Lothian) bt D Miller (Cumbernauld) 7-6, 8-7, 7-3. Final: Gourley bt Wood 7-6, 8-7, 7-3.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne: Victoria 291-4 (D Jones 145, M Elliott 72) v South Australia.

FOOTBALL

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: Santos 2 Guarani 2; São Paulo 3 Ituano 0; America 0 Corinthians 0; Ferroviaria 0 Palmeiras 2; Uniao São Joao 4 Portuguesta 0; Mogi Mirim 2 Bragantino 1; Rio Branco 0 Santo Andre 1; Ponte Preta 1 Novorizontino 1.

Late results on Thursday

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 6 Portsmouth 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest 2 Notts County 1. Second division: Postponed: Bradford City v Oldham; Stoke v Preston; West Bromwich v Tranmere.

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final, second leg: Internazionale 1 Sampdoria 1 (agg: 1-2).

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Mexico 1 Switzerland 5 (at Oakland, California).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools' Mens Under-19 Trophy: Wolverton Hull 2 Yorks Coast College Scarborough 2; Wilson Grammar Wallington 3 Hundred of Hoo Rochester 2; Hemel Hempstead Herts 3 Eaglesfield Inner London 2. St Cuthbert's HS Newcastle 4 Morton Carlisle 0. English Schools' British Gas Trophy: Fifth round: Cambridge 3 Huntingdon 1.

GOLF

PERTH, Australia: Vines Classic: Leading second-round scores (Aus unless stated): 136: W Smith 69; 67; P Burke (US) 68, 68. 138: M Clayton 67, 71. 139: C van der Velde (Hol) 67, 72; R Davis 67, 72; R Allenby 70, 69, G Marsh 71, 68. 140: M Campbell (NZ), 73, 67; R Green 70, 70; R Gibson (Can) 70, 70. T Herron (US) 70, 70. British: 157: I Woosnam 80, 77 (failed to qualify).

PHOENIX, Arizona: Phoenix Open: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65: G McCord, M Lye, D Forsman. 66: R Fehr, R Estes, B Chamblee, M Hulbert. 67: P Mickelson, G Kraft, B McCallister, R Burns, T Lehman. 68: S Elkington (Aus), V Singh (Fiji), A Magee, S Pate, B Bryant, E Humenik, D Ogrin, G Morgan, T Simpson, B Faxon, M Springer, W Grasson, L Janzen. British: 70: D Feherty.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 7 Washington 2; Ottawa 1 Hartford 1 (OT); Pittsburgh 3 Quebec 0; Chicago 3 Detroit 4 (OT); Los Angeles 4 New York Rangers 5 (OT); Vancouver 2 Dallas 3 (OT).

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE LEAGUE: Leading scorers: Third division: 90: M Livesey (Richmond, 1 try, 14 conversions, 17 penalty goals; 2 dropped goals) 84: A Green (Exeter, 2t, 10c, 18pg). 79: J Greyshon (Morley, 11c 18pg, 3dg). 59: R Angell (Coventry, 10c, 12pg, 1dg). 54: A Finnie (Bedford, 6c, 13pg, 1dg) 53: P Robin (Rosslyn Park, 2t, 8c, 9pg). 51: A Parker (Fylde, 6c, 13pg) 41. S Burns (Blackheath, 2t, 2c, 9pg).

SQUASH

MILFORD, Surrey: British Super Challenge: C Walker (Eng) bt M Mackeen (Scot) 15-11, 15-10, 17-16.

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: British Open (Eng unless stated): Final qualifying round: D Harold bt M Flowerdew 5-4, N Terry bt D Gilbert 5-3; M Couch bt S Francisco (SA) 5-2; E Hughes (Ire) bt S Reid 5-2; B Rowswell bt A Higgins (N Ire) 5-3; A Bishop bt C Wilson (Wales) 5-1; J Wych (Can) bt R Marshall 5-2; P Francisco (SA) bt D Mason 5-3; Y Merchant (India) bt D Fitzjohn 5-3; M Williams (Wales) bt J Birch 5-0; R O'Sullivan bt R Garnett 5-1. A Miles bt S Langton 5-3; N Gilbert bt M Macleod (Scot) 5-2; A Bolsover bt L Dodd 5-4; D Reppon bt T Chappel (Wales) 5-4; C Thorburn (Can) bt R Leighton 5-2; J Bodle bt W Jones (Wales) 5-2; S O'Connor (Ire) bt S Newbury (Wales) 5-4.

TABLE TENNIS

HYDERABAD, Commonwealth championships: Men's team final: England bt Canada 5-3 (M Syed bt J Gideon 21-8, 16-21, 21-15, A Cooke bt F Trudel 21-17, 21-15; A Eden lost to J Huang 19-21, 15-21; A Cooke bt J Gideon 21-15, 21-15; M Syed lost to J Huang 19-21, 21-23; A Eden bt F Trudel 21-13, 21-15; A Cooke lost to J Huang 21-18, 12-21, 19-21; A Eden bt J Gideon 21-13, 21-18). Women's team final: Hong Kong bt England 3-1 (Chia Po Wa bt L Lomas 21-14, 21-10; Chan Tan Lui bt A Gordon 21-23, 27-25, 21-18; Chia Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui lost to A Holt and L Lomas 21-14, 18-21, 15-21; Chia Po Wa bt A Gordon 21-16, 21-19).

TENNIS

TELFORD: LTA Tour: Men's final: L Matthews (Herts) bt R Middleton (Scot) 6-1, 6-4. Women's final: S Pandremenkina (Russ) bt N Egorova (Russ) 6-2, 3-2, rtd.

YACHTING

PERTH: Australia Cup regatta: Semi-finals: R Davis (Aus) leads R Herron (Aus) 1-0; N Witley (Aus) and T Peponnet (Fr) level at 1-1.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to reson	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	5	70	good powder	closed		snow	0	28/1
(Excellent snow conditions)								
Kitzbühel	45	125	good powder	good		snow	-1	28/1
(Light powder on all pistes)								
Mayrhofen	10	80	good powder	closed		snow	-4	28/1
(Good new powder covering all pistes)								
Obergurgl	90	140	powder	powder	powder	snow	-12	28/1
(Blizzard: serious danger of travel chaos this weekend)								
Schladming	50	150	powder	powder	good	snow	0	28/1
(Excellent skiing on new snow)								
Söll	30	90	good powder		fair	snow	-1	28/1
(Very few lifts open due to stormy weather)								
St Anton	50	270	good powder	good		snow	-5	28/1
(All upper runs closed by blizzard conditions)								
FRANCE								
Isola	150	240	fair	varied	fair	fine	-5	16/1
(Clear weather but strong winds)								
La Plagne	155	320	good	varied	good	snow	-7	26/1
(Limited skiing on lower runs due to high winds)								
S Chevalier	40	165	icy	varied	good	fine	-2	28/1
(High winds causing tricky skiing)								
Val d'Isere	110	320	good powder	good		snow	-3	28/1
(No slung, all lifts shut by raging blizzard)								
Val Thorens	140	300	powder powder	good		snow	-5	28/1
(Only nursery slope lifts open, excellent prospects)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	55	170	good powder	good		snow	-2	28/1
(All closed except runs below Verdets, Mierbe and Chalzeron)								
Gstaad	20	80	good powder	fair		sun	-2	27/1
(High winds have kept upper lifts closed)								
Klosters	50	190	good	varied	good	snow	-5	28/1
(Heavy snow and strong winds causing hazardous skiing)								
Mürren	80	140	good powder	good		snow	-5	28/1
(Prospects looking good when weather clears)								
St Moritz	25	75	powder powder	good		snow	-6	28/1
(Snow and low cloud leading to tricky skiing)								
Zermatt	80	230	good powder	fair		snow	-5	28/1
(Strong winds have all but closed the resort)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper, an - artificial

Realist the right choice to regain lost status



DAVID MILLER
Chief Sports Correspondent

It is easy to understand why some people, including journalists, have over the years mistrusted Terry Venables. People become suspicious or resentful, especially in sport, of those with above-average intelligence. Venables was born a shade smarter than many.

At the moment, there are those who suspect that he may not have been smart enough: that he may have infringed financial regularities in or out of football, indiscretions that will return to haunt him. Be that as it may — and I hope not, for football's sake as well as his — he is now England team coach. Other than the ageing Dave Sexton, he is the most knowledgeable and experienced we have.

We should wish him well. It might have been preferable for the Football Association not to have rushed the appointment. It would have been better not to have had a profusion of leaks and contradictions — between the chief executive and chairman — that were an embarrassment to all the candidates under consideration and have left the FA with an increased image of incompetence.

However, theory is behind them, and practicality lies ahead. Everything about Venables's football credentials suggests that whether he was given the job now or in three months' time, he is the man best qualified to transform England's loss of status.

I am optimistic this will prove to be so and his initial comments on taking office yesterday reflected his understanding of the fundamental requirements. "There must be a pattern of play that players understand," Venables said. "I have to make it simple, though they have to understand that we may need to have [on occasion] a change. I am concerned that there is little time [for coaching the national team] and I have to get it over without complication."

Questioned on whether he felt pleased or surprised by the appointment, he said he had always wished to be judged by the players he has worked with. The evidence is that he has overwhelming support from those within the game.

With every club he has coached — Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Barcelona, Tottenham Hotspur — Venables has produced sides that were coherent and attractive yet with a degree of pragmatism that is essential in an often tactically ruthless game. Every team has been successful to some degree, though there were for a time elements in his Rangers side that bordered on expedient.

"We would all like to have an England side that is admired by public and press," he said, "but we cannot indulge in fantasy. You have to be stubborn, not concede goals." His teams, starting against Denmark in March, can be expected to be designed somewhere between the early but slightly idealistic teams of Ron Greenwood and the more cynical later teams of Sir Alf Ramsey.

What England will not have is the random lottery of selection and tactics that was continually inflicted on the teams of Graham Taylor. "We have the potential to do better and I believe it can be done," Venables promised. He will, however, need to be careful not to be too smart in his dealings with the press.

Eight years ago, before Barcelona played in the European Cup final, Venables made a prescient comment. "People seem to think I am a slippery cockney boy with a few jokes. It has taken one of the biggest clubs in the world to acknowledge what I can really do, my ability at coaching. I have always tried to come across as someone who can express himself, and who has a sense of humour, but then some people label me 'too clever by half'. They used to say I improved lesser players but couldn't deal with stars. I came here and did it. Where's the next criticism?"

Barcelona had not won the Spanish League for 14 years. With no change of personnel except Steve Archibald for Diego Maradona, they won the title. At Tottenham, a declining team was hauled out of financial crisis. He feels his ability will be to take the pressure off players, to give them his experience and create relationships. As Monday's absorbing but depressing television documentary on Taylor revealed, this is something England have not known for four years.

Venables is no stranger to harsh realities. Replacing Danny Blanchflower at Tottenham in the 1960s, he did not readily fit. On his first morning, unwisely shielding the ball from Dave Mackay, he was cynically kicked. He promptly threw a punch. The incident was soon forgotten but he had learned another lesson about relationships.

"You cannot coach teams to allow for the opposition when the opposition is different every week," he has said, something Taylor never began to understand. England under Venables will have teams that blend, with players that can be relied on to deliver in the heat of international exposure. That will not guarantee success, but is a start in the right direction.

New England football coach pledges to bring a sense of purpose

FA turns to Venables for winning touch

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A LIAISON desired but dangerous began publicly yesterday afternoon. Terry Venables, about to be declared officially the England football coach, walked out of the royal box at Wembley, down the red carpet and onto the turf, straight towards a pack of photographers. Looking towards a cloudless sky Venables could see the words "Good luck Terry" in neon lights on the electronic scoreboard.

When the posing was done, the explanations came. In the banqueting hall Venables sat flanked by Graham Kelly and Sir Bert Millichip, respectively the chief executive and chairman of the Football Association. He appeared subdued. Sir Bert had begun by saying: "The first time I felt humiliation was not at the match against Holland, but when the draw for the World Cup was made in Las Vegas. I felt very much the poor relation."

Poor old Sir Bert. He and his committee had taken 66 days to analyse England's plight and to decide the successor to the defeated, resigned Graham Taylor. Their first decision had been to conclude that England did not want a manager, but a coach. It is appropriate that the redefining of the role ensures that the England coach is responsible strictly for selecting, preparing and motivating the players, and unlike Taylor will have no duties concerning commerce or administration.

Venables, 51, welcomed that. "Of course it is a coaching job," he said. "That is what I did at Barcelona, its what I did best at Spurs, it is the reason I understand that the professionals in the clubs gave me this terrific lift."

He was referring to the respect that came overwhelmingly for his flair for getting the best out of players and his inventive tactics, both qualities on which Taylor proved inadequate for England. It may sound a strange word to use, but I sense that the professionals in football trust Venables to appreciate and know how to stimulate the precious few international calibre players in England. That stems from the fact that Venables, unlike Taylor, played the game at this level.

Maybe it was the sense of occasion, the arrival at a pinnacle to which he had aspired from the day he finished playing and became an irreverent coach.

In this respect, there are misgivings this time in a footballing respect: that his teams have not consistently been proven winners. This lacks an essential observation. In insisting on skill, on passing qualities and on style, England's future must rest. Unless someone breaks the dull cycle of pragmatism, the confusion of energy with talent, England's lapsed place in international football, Sir Bert's humiliation, will go on.

TERRY VENABLES

Born: Dagenham, Jan 6, 1943. Age: 51. Playing career: 1958: Joined Chelsea as an apprentice. 1960: Signed as a professional, making 202 league appearances, scoring 26 goals. 1964: Won first of two England caps. 1966: Transferred for £80,000 to Tottenham, for whom he played 115 league games and scored 19 goals. 1969: Transferred to QPR for £70,000. 1974: Moves to Crystal Palace for £70,000.
Honours: Represented England at all levels. League Cup winner's medal (1965). FA Cup winner's medal (1967).
Managerial career: 1976: Appointed manager of Crystal Palace. 1980: resigned to take over at QPR. 1984: resigned to take over at Barcelona. 1987: sacked and appointed Tottenham manager. 1993: contract as chief executive terminated.
Honours: Second division championship (1979, 1983). FA Cup winners (1991). FA Cup finalists (1982). Spanish championship (1985). European Cup finalists (1986).

There were small but perceptible fluctuations in Venables' mood yesterday. When faced with harsh questions bringing in the name of Alan Sugar, you could see Venables summon up restraint: when defending his right to continue legal pursuit against Sugar for unfair dismissal and his proposed libel action against the *Panorama* programme. Venables sounded proud, defiant, stubborn.

Whether those cases reach the courts, he would not speculate. "I am going to deal with it but I want today to talk about football methods. I want to study the situation carefully, to concentrate on the task of trying to win the European Championship in 1996."

To that end Venables answered questions willingly. He would play the football for which he was known, he would seek a balance of youth and experience, he would look for the talent he believes exists (although he telling added "maybe not in the places where you want it") and he differed from his predecessor in one vital aspect. "Graham Taylor called this the impossible job," Venables said. "If I make a hash of it, it will be the impossible job. But I think it is a very hard job, but its my task to get optimism again."

Over the next eight or nine days, Venables intends travelling the country, to talk to club managers, to enquire whether players he has in mind might be able to adapt to change. His team structure will be simple. It will not tax good players, but they will be left in no doubt about the precise requirements, and from there Venables hopes to build balance, reliability, and, the prerequisite of all managers, a team that develops into a championship mould.

Two things puzzled and disturbed. First, why did the FA choose Venables in his year of crisis when they had rejected him without so much as an interview when he was younger, leaner and fresher four years previously? Kelly offered an explanation. "The most significant factor is the element of professional consultation we felt necessary this time," he said, referring to the fact that Jimmy Armfield, the former England full back, had been engaged to solicit the opinions of managers, coaches and players.

Now he is selected, we must hope that the only judgment on a football coach comes through the performances of his team. If it is any other way, if the FA has gambled on appointing a man who ultimately brings ignominy to their office, then more than the success of failure of England's football is at stake. This time, appointing a new team coach cost the FA nothing in compensation to a club; but it still might cost them everything in terms of respect and probity.

MARC ASPLAND



Venables emerges from the Wembley tunnel with a smile on being appointed England coach yesterday

Souness bows to inevitable by leaving Liverpool

BY PETER BALL

GRAEME Souness yesterday accepted the consequences of Liverpool's footballing decline under his management and resigned. His successor has not been appointed.

David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, finally broke the news at Anfield last night after a day of meetings at a secret location: "Graeme Souness has offered his resignation from the post of team manager and, by a unanimous decision of the board, that resignation has been accepted," Moores said. "It will take effect immediately."

Souness had over two years left on his contract. Whether he received the full £600,000 is uncertain. Moores refused to reveal the financial arrangements, saying only they had been concluded "amicably".

"This is a sad day for me." Souness, who is believed to have already gone abroad and did not attend the press conference, said in a statement last night. "After a great deal of soul-searching, I have reached the conclusion that the best thing for the club and I is that we should part company. I took this job believing that I could return the club to its former glory, but this proved to be more difficult than I anticipated."

Souness's resignation had been anticipated since Tuesday's FA Cup third round replay defeat by Bristol City at Anfield, the second successive year that Liverpool have been beaten on their own ground by a Football League club in the third round. With the side already out of the Coca-Cola Cup and sitting 21 points behind Manchester United, their season is virtually over, the first time in 22 years that they will have gone two consecutive seasons without a trophy. That finally proved decisive. "Liverpool Football Club is all about winning things and being a source of pride to our fans," Moores said last night. "It has no other purpose.

"With the single exception of winning the FA Cup in Graeme's first season, the results in the League and the domestic and European cup competitions have been well below what is expected by the club and the supporters."

There will be some sympathy for Souness, who inherited a side in need of rejuvenation when he replaced Kenny Dalglish in April 1991. At Liverpool, the expectations fuelled by two decades of domination can probably no longer be fulfilled.

However, Souness did not help himself, a lack of judgment in the transfer market, his confrontational style of management and worries about the club's declining disciplinary record all making his three years in charge the most turbulent spell at Anfield for many years.

His successor will not have an easy task. It was expected that Liverpool would revert to the old tradition and go back to the Boot Room by appointing Roy Evans, the club's coach, but, for the moment, Liverpool are in limbo.

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SUPER BOWL

A feast for gridiron fans

What hot cooks serve up, page 4



GARDENING GLORY

A dazzling display of Dutch bulbs

The Keukenhof, page 14



SCIENCE NIGHT

Pyjama games at the museum

The hottest party in town, page 12

CRUISING IN ALASKA
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WEEKEND

3

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 29 1994

How the experts buy their homes

Professionals in the property market tell Rachel Kelly how they progress and profit from their own house moves



Kaz Stepien's moves: Orsett Terrace (left) and typical Gipsy Hill house



Eton Rise flat (left) and the former home in Hampstead

SIMON WALLER



Kaz Stepien, a property solicitor, his wife Ann and son Dominick at their home in north London, which they bought in 1987 for £275,000 and is now worth about £420,000

In 1972, Kaz Stepien left the ancient elegance of Christ Church, Oxford, for a rented home in a block of flats in one of west London's less distinguished streets. Four moves later, he owns, in favoured Rothwell Street, Primrose Hill, north London, a house worth about £420,000.

Another success story is that of John Hunter. He began with a £28,000 flat in Pimlico, London, and is now looking for a £300,000 house in Wandsworth, south-west London. Steven Bell has climbed up from a £12,000 semi in Kent to a house in Dulwich, south-east London, whose price tag he would rather not reveal. Adrian Coles has also fared well; he paid £25,000 for his first house in 1980, and now owns a home worth £170,000.

Such gains are exceptional, but, to paraphrase Mandy Rice-Davies, they should have done well, shouldn't they — because Messrs Stepien, Hunter, Bell and Coles are property experts who have spent their professional lives entwined with the property market.

Mr Stepien is a property solicitor with the City law firm Stepien Lake Gilbert & Partners. After being a student from 1969 to 1972, he started renting in a block of flats in Orsett Terrace, Paddington, while studying for Law Society exams.

With neither capital nor income, he couldn't buy. His next move, to a rented house in Gipsy Hill, near Crystal Palace, south London, cost him and two of his friends £60 a month each. Then he met his future wife, Ann. "Before we married, we bought a flat, in March 1978. The property market was very hot at the time: we wanted to buy because the residential lettings market had got difficult," says Mr Stepien, who by *this time was working as an* assistant solicitor.

It was a sellers' market, so Mr Stepien and his fiancée decided to pay the full £27,250, for a two-bedroom flat in a 1930s block called Eton Rise, in Eton College Road, Chalk Farm, near Belsize Park, north London, with a £24,000 building society loan and another £1,500 loan from the bank.

"We sold the flat in April 1983 *after a year of trying, for £32,500,"* he says. "It seems like a profit, but there wasn't any because we had to pay out on the high service charges of living in a mansion block."

At the same time as they sold the flat, they bought a small, three-bedroom Georgian terrace house in Hampstead, north London, for £84,000, with a 90 per cent mortgage. "We spent about £30,000 putting in a new kitchen and *bathroom, doing the roof, carpets* and curtains. We knew it was a good deal because the house was in prime position in a prime area of the market, and compared very well with all the other houses we had seen," Mr Stepien says.

"We sold the house in May 1987 for £242,000 — but it took a year. I don't think we were particularly clever making such a profit; it was just that the market had gone up *between those years.*

"We then bought the house in Primrose Hill. We wouldn't have been able to afford a similar-sized house in Hampstead and by this time our son, Dominick, had arrived. The house needed total refurbishment. It cost £275,000, and we spent about £100,000 on it. We bought it with a 65 per cent mortgage.

"I think that at best it would be *worth about £420,000 now."*

Continued on page 12

Dixie Nichols asks how well property correspondents have done out of the housing market

Can the press buck the market?

How have property writers, who regularly hand out advice, fared in a fearsome housing market. None of them flinched at giving the figures — all had gathered in tidy sums — but they made mistakes as well, and their expertise has not sheltered them from the knocks and stresses.

DES JENSEN



Ann Morris — "we didn't know how lucky we were"



Tom Rowland — bargain

ROSALIND RUSSELL

Property columnist of the Evening Standard, *property correspondent of the* Daily Mirror

Rosalind Russell has seen property law at its worst, having had one of the most unpleasant run-ins with a freeholder imaginable, but she thinks that many Londoners go through the same sort of thing.

Ms Russell and her husband bought a two-bedroom flat in London's Primrose Hill for £49,000 in 1985 with a 5¼ per cent mortgage and sold it last August for £135,000. But if she had been able to sell in 1987, when she wanted to, she would have made £160,000. Instead she and her fellow leaseholders were in litigation with their freeholder for three years, which meant nobody would buy during that time.

Her experience taught her two things: "If you get the chance to buy the freehold, do so instantly, and if you get a difficult freeholder, go in with boots flying from the word go. There is no point in appeasement." Ms Russell and her fellow leaseholders were hours away from buying the freehold when a builder purchased the basement flat and the freehold over their heads. He then extended his flat out into the communal garden and demanded exorbitant amounts for necessary building works. "There was a constant stream of abusive letters and an enormous expenditure of time talking to the other tenants and lawyers. At its height petrol was poured through the letter box, fencing was pulled down and threatening phone calls received."

The conflict went to court, but the freeholder failed to turn up at the hearing. Management rights were awarded to the leaseholders as well as costs, which they could not claim because the freeholder had disappeared, leaving his bank to repossess the flat.

Eventually, the rising rate of low-level crime, the amount of noise and what she describes as middle-class arrogance all began to irritate Ms Russell: "People would have loud parties in their garden on a Sunday afternoon and timid protest would bring abuse. I'm talking about middle-class people in a so-called nice area who would become hysterical over a tree chopped down, or parking, or dogs. They didn't care about anybody else, a sort of transference of city stress."

Cautiously, Ms Russell decided to try the country and bought a run-down 1920s house near Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, for £153,700 with a 45 per cent mortgage. She was not sure she would survive out of a city and even had a nightmare in which a cab driver told her to get out at the top of Highgate Hill as he could not take passengers into 081 regions. To her relief she likes the country, her dog has learnt to bark and the milk is not stolen from the doorstep.

ANN MORRIS

Property editor of Harpers & Queen

Ann Morris got it right: her four-bedroom Victorian terraced house in south London is now worth twice the £100,000 she paid for it in 1985. When she married in 1984, she and her husband had flats to sell, and the obvious move was to buy a house big enough for children. They fixed on the area in south London known as "between the commons", that is between Clapham and Wandsworth commons.

"The prices were just beginning to zoom up: they even increased while we were looking. We were going boggle-eyed looking at dozens and dozens. In the end we fixed on this one because of its position 20 yards from the common. We didn't know how lucky we were: it's worth twice what we paid for it. I've no idea how other people manage."

Two children later, they are wondering if they should move further out to get a bigger house, or if they should add a conservatory for extra space.

Ms Morris thinks it is a good time to move. "The differentials are as low as they are ever going to be; but on the other hand we are not sufficiently uncomfortable to need to move."

TOM ROWLAND

Property correspondent of The Daily Telegraph

Tom Rowland, by his own admission, was a serious irritant to the London property market for a period. Having inherited his mother's house in Manningtree, Essex, in January 1989, he sold his first house, a small end-of-terrace house in Greenwich (which he bought in 1986 with a 90 per cent mortgage for £40,000) in 1990 for £77,000 and rented a flat for £50 a week.

After getting married, and with a first baby on the way, he wanted a "proper grown-up house", which he eventually found in Greenwich. "I *thought it was a bargain at* £120,000, and I was able to manage a 50 per cent mortgage. However, I didn't fully appreciate the amount of slog it takes to restore a big house. Nothing is straightforward: you strip off the wallpaper and half the wall comes down with it."

Mr Rowland thinks he went wrong in handling his mother's house. He inherited it almost at the peak of the market in January 1989 and sold it at the very bottom in November 1992 for £59,000, having spent £15,000 on it.

He was also having an acrimonious struggle with the tax authorities, who initially valued his mother's house at £110,000 for inheritance tax. Mr Rowland eventually beat them down to £70,000, but he says he should have sold the house straightaway, because the tax authorities will take the sale price as its valuation if a house is sold within the year.

Rachel Kelly, property correspondent of The Times, *writes:* My own property transactions have yet to reach a successful conclusion. I am currently trying to sell *my flat and while negotiations* are still in progress, I refuse to reveal my hand. The full story will appear in *Weekend* when I have sold.

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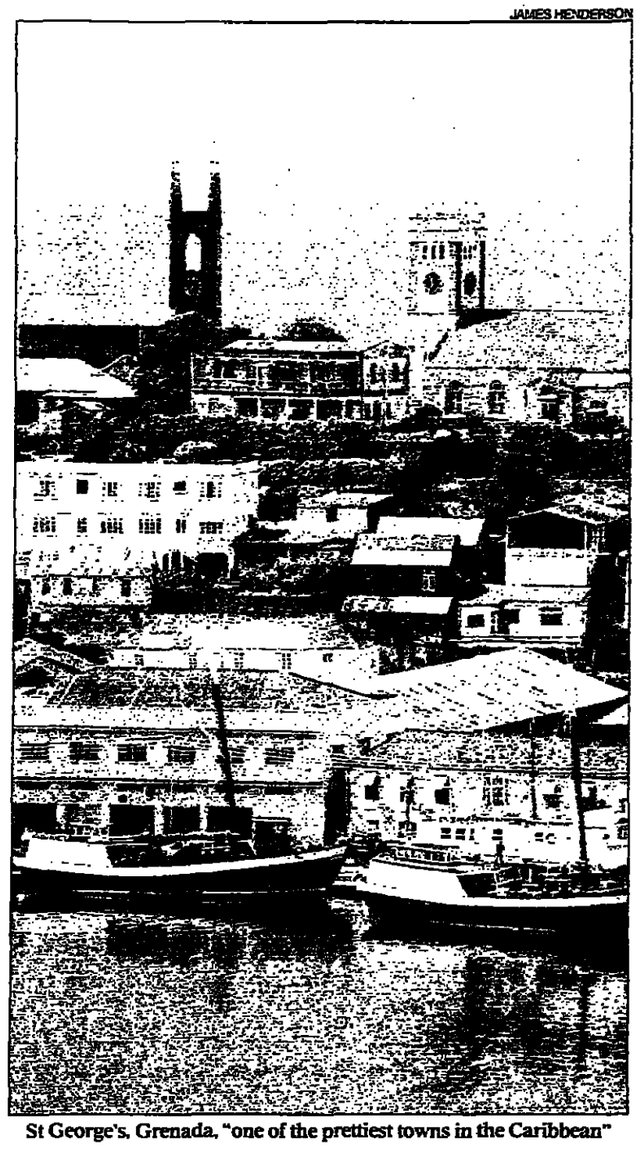
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Boats and beach life

In the second part of our guide to adventure among the islands of the eastern Caribbean, we sample life afloat and the distractions ashore — cricket, calypso and carnival

JAMES HENDERSON



St George's, Grenada, "one of the prettiest towns in the Caribbean"

ALL ABOARD

Yacht: Surely islands are meant to be approached by sea. The sailing in the Caribbean is relatively easy: it is always warm and the winds are constant. It is also well organised and most islands have marinas. You can track along the island chain, taking in a variety of islands (centres are Sint Maarten, Antigua and St Lucia), or perhaps best of all, concentrate on a smaller area, such as the Virgin Islands or the Grenadines, where many islands are within a short distance of one another. (Ferries and the mailboat are another good way of getting around these places).

There are sailing charter operators throughout the Caribbean: for uncrewed boats you can contact the Moorings (0843 227140) and Sunsail (0705 219848). Crewed boats can be found through Yacht Connections (0344 24987). If you have plenty of time, then you can take your chances at the local marina and try to hitch a ride from one island to the next on a yacht.

Inter-island trader: You are not really encouraged to do so, but it is occasionally possible to persuade cargo-boat captains to add you to the crew manifest (they are not allowed to take passengers) for a negotiable fee. Try your luck at the main wharf. Be flexible on timings.

Cruise ship: Cruise ships are really for softies, but they enable you to see a large number of islands for a short period without the bother of unpacking your suitcase. You might discover an island which you would like to return to for longer.

On land — the buses: All good tourists are encouraged to travel by taxi, but the natural West Indian way is to go by bus, and it is a good exposure to Caribbean life. The buses are often like mobile discotheques, with stereo systems worth more than the bus itself. If you have a seat, standing passengers will hand you their briefcase, shopping or baby to hold.

THE ISLANDS

The Virgin Islands: A sprinkling of islands divided between America and Britain. Among the US Virgin Islands, St Thomas is highly developed, hectic and big on cruise-ship shopping: St John is mostly undisturbed national park with walks by day and amusing bars and restaurants around the coastline in the evenings; St Croix is large and set apart from the other islands. The small and scattered islands of the British Virgin Islands have the Caribbean's finest beach bars, superb sand, and some very expensive hotels hidden in the isolated bays. Virgin Gorda is expensive; the north coast of Tortola is good for hanging out; Jost van Dyke is a magnificent, comatose retreat, with endless beach bars. The Virgin Islands are not cheap.

St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada: The Grenadines are a string of pretty islands slung between the Windward Islands of Grenada and St Vincent — a tour among them, on a yacht or by ferry, gives the best of Caribbean tourism as well as small-island life. Just south of the incredibly fertile and undeveloped St Vincent is Bequia, Caribbean picture-postcard perfection, and Mustique, with its absurdly expensive villas for the super-wealthy. Mayreau is a charming, slumberstruck cay; Carriacou is dead cool and well worth a stopover. From there you can take a ferry to St George's in Grenada, set on an semicircular bay, one of the prettiest towns in the Caribbean. All the Grenadines have excellent beaches.

The French Antilles: Developed like France itself, these islands are overseas departments of France (cars and croissants cost the same as they do in the *metropole*). But Martinique and Guadeloupe have a special creole identity, with a chic and coquettish style, and infuriating nonchalance. It is best to speak some French in the French Antilles. There is also superb French Caribbean food. Guadeloupe has a number of offshore islands which can be reached by ferry and is linked to Martinique by hydrofoil.



Virgin Islands' restaurant sign

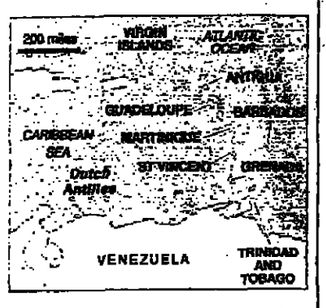
with a stop in the former British island of Dominica. Dominica is the least developed and most mountainous and natural of the Windwards.

The Dutch Antilles: Two groups of three: Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao (off the coast of Venezuela) and Sint Maarten, Saba, Sint Eustatius. Sint Maarten (a hub for the northern area of the Eastern Caribbean) is the smallest island in the world to be shared by two powers; the other half is French. Sint Maarten's excellent sand has been over-developed. St Eustatius (Statia) was once known as the "golden rock" because it was such a successful trading post, but it was destroyed by the British Navy and never recovered. Saba is unfeasibly steep with gargantuan greenery and pretty houses. It is possible to get by with English in the Dutch Antilles.

Barbados: For such a small island, Barbados produces many very fine cricketers (Gary Sobers, Joel Garner and Desmond Haynes among them) and has won the Red Stripe (inter-Caribbean championship) more times than all the other islands put together. Barbados is used to visitors and has plenty of good bars and restaurants, fantastic beaches and some of the smartest hotels in the Caribbean.

Antigua: Like Barbados, Antigua has a full range of hotels with excellent beaches and some fun bars. Its most famous son is Viv Richards, who can sometimes be found in the bars of St John's.

Antigua is also a centre for sailing and it is famed for its week-long regatta, Race Week, held each year in late April.



Trinidad and Tobago: A perfect combination of the lively (Trinidad) and the lazy and low-key (Tobago), connected by plane and by ferry. Just off the coast of South America, Trinidad has better birdlife than any other Caribbean island. The evening flight of the scarlet ibis is a spectacular sight. Sleepy Tobago has some cracking beaches in lost coves.

FUN ASHORE

Cricket: The game is almost a religion in the British Caribbean. When there's a match on, everyone listens in to the radio commentary, if they're not already at the game. Even the hustlers are easier on you if the West Indies are winning. West Indians are high-grade hecklers and so it is worth seeking out the "rude-boy" stand in the stadium for the most entertaining back-chat and unofficial commentary.

A full schedule can be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Test and County Cricket Board at Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ.

Carnival: Carnival, or "mas" (from masquerade), is the wildest event in an already-packed Caribbean calendar. Trinidad has the largest Caribbean carnival — hundreds of thousands of "players", dressed in flourescent flashes of Lycra, satin and sequins, shuffle and swagger through the streets of Port of Spain at Mardi Gras (February 15 this year). Any carnival is worth attending if you happen to be on-island, but you might consider a special trip. Best of all is that you can usually join in the carnival parades by buying a costume (about £33).

Calypso: An integral part of carnival is the music, mostly calypso (which originated in Trinidad), now backed by the hard, relentless rhythm of *soca*. In Britain the best known soca song is probably "Hot! Hot! Hot!" by Arrow. Calypsos are songs of social comment, protest, wit, smut and scurrilous gossip, an oral equivalent of our *Private Eye* and *Viz* rolled together. You will also hear steel bands, with as many as 60 players in energetic unison, turning a cacophony of plinks, clangs and bongs into what can be an extraordinarily moving melody.

Markets: Markets are a good way of getting close to Caribbean life. As well as a place to buy and sell anything from tropical fruit and veg to human hair for braiding, markets are the centre of all gossip, so there is plenty of shouting and backchat. Treat yourself to a bundle of all the fruits in season — papaw, mango, banana (particularly the smaller sweet bananas), sugar apple and pineapple.

Windsurfing and Diving: With the constant breeze of the tradewinds, the Caribbean is good windsurfing territory. You can hire equipment on any island; the top venues are the south coast of Barbados, off Guadeloupe and Sint Maarten. The Caribbean also offers the best diving in the western hemisphere. Resort courses enable you to get under water in a day. If you fancy spooking a sergeant-major fish or running a grunt to ground, the best scuba diving is off Saba. Bonaire and in the Grenadines, but most islands have facilities for diving.

JAMES HENDERSON

BEACH BOOKS

There are a number of stories of island-hopping adventures: an English edition of *Nouveau Voyage aux Iles de l'Amérique* by Père Labat, Dominican missionary, unofficial French spy and roving gastronome, was published by John Eaden in 1931. Just postwar is *The Traveller's Tree*, vintage Leigh Fermor, erudite and heavy going. The best of the most recent Caribbean travel books is Zenga Longmore's *Tap-Taps to Trinidad* (Hodder & Stoughton), which gives the perspective of a woman traveller. V.S. Naipaul's *Miguel Street* is set in Port of Spain, Trinidad, but speaks for the whole of the urban Caribbean.

Canada's northwest and Alaska

Call of the wild north attracts the cruisers

SURVIVAL ANGLIA



A nature-lover's dream . . . but not every visitor sees bears. Below, the Jasper Park Lodge

Steamships brought the first tourists to the waters of northern Canada and Alaska in the 1870s when, like today, they sought the spectacular ice and wildlife of Glacier Bay, lying several hundred miles north of the Alaskan capital, Juneau.

An earthquake choked the seas with icebergs in 1898 with the result that the cruise ships stayed away for more than 70 years. When passenger boats first ventured back in the 1970s, the humpback, minke and orca whales fled, but now the "eco" factor governs operations and the number of ships is restricted. The whales have returned.

Ticker tape thrown from the decks of the *Crown Princess* as she leaves Vancouver for the nine-night trip via Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan, is biodegradable. Balloons decorating dining-tables are burst and binned before passengers can take them on deck. Whales don't like plastic.

P&O pioneered the modern era of Alaskan cruising and its subsidiary, Princess Cruises, operates six ships there during the northern summer. More ships are being built. At 70,000 tonnes, the P&O flagship *Crown Princess* is bigger than the *QE2* and, when launched in 1990, cost more than $200 million (now about £135 million). *Crown Princess* was designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano to resemble a



'The only bear I saw was very dead — stuffed and in the bar of a saloon'

dolphin moving through water. P&O turned it into a whale, cavernous and corpulent: there are eight bars and lounges, a 700-seat theatre for Broadway-style shows, cinema, casino, library, shops, swimming pools, running track and gym.

Passengers gorged themselves on the gifts of Mammon and nature. Four hours after leaving the discotheque, champagne flowed at breakfast in an open-air Jacuzzi as the sun rose on the spume of the ship's wake.

In Glacier Bay, the Margerie Glacier shed vast obelisks of ice. A lecturer from the National Park Service described this event as calving. The native Tlingit refer to it as Great White Thunder. The *Crown Princess* was less than 400 yards from the spectacular face of the retreating glacier.

Ellen Eberhardt, one of 70 wardens based in the 3.3 million acres of Glacier Bay national park, a world heritage site, welcomes the cruise ships, which are limited in number to two a day. "They're non-intrusive, there's no garbage," she said. "The cruises give people a stronger sense of the environment."

They also put more money into the communities of the Gold Rush towns of Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan than their forbears pocketed while pioneering southern Alaska. Today the "gold" is mined through souvenir shops, restaurants, whitewater rafts and helicopters.

On the edge of the mountain peaks, several thousand feet above Juneau, the little red and white helicopters hum and bob, against the backdrop of a prehistoric landscape, while their pilots wait for gaps in the mist that enable them to enter the valleys and glaciers beyond.

Our helicopter was one of a "squadron" of six from the

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PRINCESS TOURS



Château Lake Louise, a magical mountain arena in the Rockies, is one of the many Canadian resorts that attracts European cruise passengers

heli-pad at Juneau. They carry tourists from the three cruise ships berthed by the town in the blue-green fjord of Gastineau Channel on a "flight-seeing" tour of the area. The trip seemed more like a dog-fight without guns as the helicopters darted among the mountains and danced between the pinnacles of ice. The pilot pointed out ice formations, disused gold mines and trails, mountain goats and eagles' nest, and urged us to watch for bear.

An hour or so later, I came across the only bear to confront me during the whole of the two weeks I spent in Canada and Alaska. Almost within a paw's swipe, it was a huge grizzly, very old and, fortunately for me, very dead. Stuffed, it was standing behind the bar of the Red Dog Saloon, which once served Klondike gold-diggers but now plays up its collection of furs, guns and other frontiersman kitsch, and probably makes more from selling Red Dog braces, hats and knickers than from bourbon or beer.

Canadian Pacific opened up the northwest region to tourism when it built the great hotels of western Canada around the turn of the century. The initial aim of the enterprise was to enable Candian Pacific to pay off its debt on the first trans-Canadian railway. Today, those same hotels are part of a package drawing people to the ships. Princess Cruises is offering its European customers a four-night tour of the Rockies from £245 in addition to the basic £1,545 for a nine-night cruise off Alaska.

The tour includes nights at the ghostly Banff Springs Hotel, Château Lake Louise, a magical mountain arena, and Jasper Park Lodge, where room service turns up on a bicycle and moose and elk herd their young on a championship golf course. Passengers then go on to join the Rocky Mountaineer Railway for the two-day trip to Vancouver, calling on the way at the cowboy town of Kamloops.

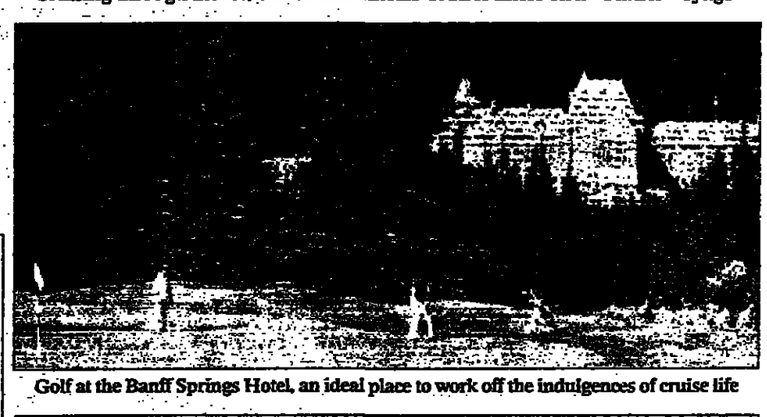
At sea, a deckchair and the latest John Grisham novel seemed sufficient entertainment for many passengers, content to bask under the Arctic sun. Their reveries were accompanied by occasional announcements of "Beauty demo" or the "$1,500 jackpot bingo". Few heeded them until the real prize was proclaimed: "Whales on the starboard side."

Some of us caught a glimpse of the dorsal fin of a minke, for a few seconds. An hour or so passed. Then a humpback surfaced, then another and a third, and then one of them dived. I missed the first and the second. But the third went down with its great tail square to the ship. Wow, right out of the Greenpeace poster.

SIMON PEARSON



Cruising through the ice, one of the Princess Cruises liners on a "Glacier Voyage"



Golf at the Banff Springs Hotel, an ideal place to work off the indulgences of cruise life

☐ *Simon Pearson was a guest of Princess Cruises and Princess Tours, travelling with the Rocky Mountaineer Railway and staying at the Banff Springs Hotel, Château Lake Louise, Jasper Park Lodge, the Canadian Inn, Kamloops, and the Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver.*

☐ *Princess Cruises operates six ships in Canadian and Alaskan water from May to September. The nine-night "Glacier Voyage" leaves from Vancouver and takes in Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan; price from £1,445 per person. The nine-night "Grandeur of Alaska" cruise, leaves from either Vancouver or Anchorage, and takes in College Fiords, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan; prices from £1,545 per person.*

☐ *A four-night tour of the Rockies costs from £245 per person: a five-night tour of Alaska from £275 per person.*

☐ *Canadian Airlines (081-667 0666) flies from Gatwick to Vancouver/Calgary.*

☐ *Details from Princess Cruises (071-831 1881).*



The Banff Springs Hotel

Mosaic of riches amid tourist kitsch

To see and enjoy the 'real' Tunisia means mixing beauty with urban chaos

ROGER PERRY



Village women in the Berber dress of "real" Tunisia

Any developing country with a European background but squeezed between Algeria and Libya, two of the most repressive Islamic states in North Africa, is bound to have a conflict of loyalties. Tunisia has. But unlike many other Muslim countries, it appreciates the need for Western currency and for close relations with Europe (it was a French Protectorate from 1881-1956 and French is the main business and tourist language).

In the words of one travel writer, Tunisia is "like Spain was about 35 years ago". It is experiencing the growing pains of developing huge tourist complexes with deluxe hotels, marinas, golf courses and shopping complexes without attracting a fundamentalist backlash like some other North African countries.

It is here that the tourist faces a dilemma. Those seeking the sun, miles of sand, an azure blue sea and loads of wine will find most of these in the main tourist areas at Hammamet, Nabeul, Port El Kantaoui, Sousse and Monastir. The sheer beauty of much of the country with its golden beaches, blazing sun, date palms, cascading bougainvillaea, the lovely pinks and deep crimsons of oleander and hibiscus, cannot be denied. It is not hard, therefore, for the main tour operators to replicate in a diluted form much of the Benidorm experience for sunworshippers.

Those tourists wanting to experience real Tunisia, its people, culture, history and food will, however, have to suffer the less attractive aspects of a male-dominated society and areas of shambolic development. This will entail archaic toiletry practices, could involve a dose of Tunisian tummy, possibly even being pulverised by a hefty masseur in a Tunisian steam bath *(hammam)* and might end with the uninitiated being ripped off in a jostling souk.

> **Tourism in Tunisia is suffering from growing pains**

Tunisia will relieve its tourists of the frightening dilemma of the "real" Tunisian holiday or the "look-alike Costa del Sol job", when it can offer much smaller, high quality, renovated hotels around Carthage so that the Antonine baths and one of the most remarkable collections of mosaics in the world can be seen in the Bardo museum before the more venturesome tourist is whisked off to the desert and the Roman ruins at El Djem or Dougga.

It is Tunisia's past connections with Turkey, Andalucia in Spain and the Lebanon which make its history, culture and food so interesting. The Phoenician jewellery and glassware in the Bardo museum are stunning but, instead of these treasures being reproduced for for sale in a well-organised museum shop, the Bardo car park is beset by dozens of salesmen tugging at people's arms to see what is likely to be a rather tacky piece of jewellery.

Those wanting to experience the local food (which is much better than many might believe), the mystery of the desert with its ancient Berber culture, the extraordinary array of mosaic floors, Roman amphitheatres and Phoenician pottery, will, at the same time, find many of Tunisia's urban customs unsettling, or possibly even offensive.

Rubbish lines the roads; household repairs are haphazard; there are no public lavatories, and if you want to do anything in a hurry, forget it. The greater the display of frenzied frustration at the delay in bringing a menu or a bottle of wine, the slower things become.

But while Tunisia may not have the West's obsession with time and motion, social order and with getting things done, there are fewer beggars than in in London. The Tunisian government does not have the social security nightmare of this country because the family unit ensures that no relative goes without food or clothing.

While the teachings of Islam encourage alms-giving and there is a national health service, Tunisia's religious heritage is a powerful brake on its progress to 20th-century pluralism and female emancipation. Tunisia is still a male-dominated society. The feminist movement has been slow to take on the full might of Islam, but there is at least some hope around the university campus in Tunis, where young women happily mix with their male counterparts.

Elsewhere, high ceilinged cafés with bare lightbulbs, whitewashed walls and metal tables are still all-male preserves ("ambience", like "ruched curtains" or "fine wines", is not a concept most Tunisians appreciate). When a woman dares walk into these male enclaves, there is likely to be a sudden silence. Women in short skirts or failing to cover their heads with a *burnous* (headscarf) will often find themselves glared at by men who only moments before may have uttered the prayer, "Blessed art thou, O Lord God, who hath not made me a woman".

In spite of these shortcomings, Tunisia is the most liberal Arab country in North Africa. President Bourguiba, who became the country's first president when it won its independence in 1956, even tried to cancel Ramadan, a month of fasting and little activity, but soon learnt the error of his ways.

Choosing a holiday in Tunisia is simple for those wanting a good beach, some sun and oodles of Tunisian wine, but for those wanting to explore the desert, troglodyte homes, Lotus-eating on Ulysses's island of Djerba, Roman amphitheatres and the Bardo (which is a "must") specialist tour operators are the only sensible option.

Choose with care: remember, wherever you are going, to take a plastic suction plug for the bath or basin (none of the plugs there seem to work properly), lavatory paper, anti-diarrhoea tablets and sun cream. Have a wonderful time.

ALASTAIR BRETT

● *Alastair Brett was a guest of the Tunisian National Tourist Office, 77A Wigmore Street, London W1H 9LJ, (071-224 5561). He flew GB Airways (081-897 4000) from Gatwick (North) to Tunis: return fares from £179. Among tour operators to Tunisia, Panorama Tunisia Experience and Thomson Holidays offer seven nights in Hammamet from £249 per person, half board. Guided tours are available to the Bardo museum, Carthage and Sidi Bou Said. Desert jeep safaris from £99 for four nights. Taxi fares are cheap. Test your haggling powers in the souks of Sousse and Tunis.*

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RESTAURANT WATCH

The latest news on eating out

SHIP SHAPE
Bateau Gourmand
The Yacht, Temple Pier, Victoria Embankment, London WC2 (071-379 9939)
Sylvain Ho-Wing-Cheong, the Mauritian-born owner of Chez Liline and La Gaulette in London, has floated a third operation, which he formally launches on Monday. The floating restaurant serves lunch from noon to 2.30pm (three courses, £14.95), afternoon tea (3-5.30pm), and dinner (6-11.30pm, three courses, £22), seven days a week with resident pianist every evening from 8pm and disco from 11pm to 3am. Average spend, about £30 a head.

BICE HEAD
Bice
13 Albermarle Street, London W1 (071-409 1011)
London's branch of the international chain of upmarket Italian restaurants is being relaunched to make it "more accessible and fun". It will offer two-course business lunches at £20, a plate of the day including wine at £16, and an evening *degustazione* menu at £30. *A la carte* prices are being trimmed to bring the average cost down to £30 or £35. From next week the restaurant will open for Saturday lunches. Monday to Saturday, noon-3pm and 7-11.30pm.

NEW DEALS
Deals
Bradmore House, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith Broadway, London W6 (081-563 1001)
Co-proprietors Lord Lichfield, Viscount Linley and Eddy Lim now have a Hammersmith branch to add to Chelsea Harbour and Soho. The Hammersmith's launch menu has more Eastern influenced dishes, such as *gado gado* (an Indonesian salad), *massaman* curry, *teriyaki* Dealsburger and Birmingham *balti*. Main dishes from £5.75, house wine £7.95. Open seven days a week, noon-10pm. Hours extended on busier nights.

STRANGE FISH
Courtney's
5/7 Side, Newcastle upon Tyne (091-232 5537)
Michael Carr and his wife, Kerensa Courtney-Carr, have caught a favourable wind for exotic fish in Newcastle. Mr Carr, with experience at the Ritz, cooks blackened tuna, red snapper and pot-roast sailfish to complement what North Shields market can provide. Two-course lunch £12.50, three courses £14.50. An evening's average spend is £27 a head including wine. Open Monday to Friday, noon-2pm, and Monday to Saturday, 7-10.30pm.

ROBIN YOUNG

For Americans, only one dish can do justice to the National Football League finals

A Super Bowl of hot chilli

ALAN WELLER





Thomas Hensey in his gridiron days (left) and at home in west London (right), indulging his passion for chilli: "My mom, Liz, makes it with Five-Alarm chilli powder. It makes your eyebrows sweat."

In the same way that he always knew exactly where to position himself as wide receiver in top-ranking American football, Thomas B. Hensey from Texas knows where he will be tomorrow night — sitting in front of the television in his west London flat watching his home team, the Dallas Cowboys, in Channel 4's marathon coverage of Super Bowl XXVIII, the 28th American National Football League final. With him will be a dozen expatriate friends, almost as many cases of Budweiser beer and a large "bowl of red". In other words, chilli con carne.

"Hot enough to make the smoke come out of your ears," says Mr Hensey, 31, whose gridiron career included a successful spell in first-division college football and media work with NFL teams. "Back home, Super Bowl is an occasion for a party, almost as much as Independence Day on July 4 — the two most important dates in the American calendar. Super Bowl is as American as apple pie, except that in this case, it's chilli. No Super Bowl party would be complete without it."

Mr Hensey, now an executive with First Artist Corporation, bringing American football, ice hockey and basketball to Britain, was raised on chilli.

"As someone who was brought up at Sleepy Hollow Ranch, 45 miles south of San Antonio in Texas, I can't tell you how important chilli is," he says. "My mom, Liz, makes it with Five-Alarm chilli powder, which I bring back whenever I go home because it's difficult to get over here. It makes your eyebrows sweat.

"Most British friends prefer milder Two or Three-Alarm. You can make your own with garlic, jalapeños (small hot green chilli peppers), cumin and chilli powder. Just eyeball it: cook by instinct, dip your finger in and make it as hot or mild as you wish.

"The trick is to use finely sliced beef cubes, not minced beef as the British do.

"Mom's Sleepy Hollow recipe, like many other Texan methods, uses Budweiser beer instead of water. It adds flavour. But don't add beans. Ask for chilli pie at a Texas rodeo and you get a plastic bowl, half-filled with corn chips and chilli piled on top. But no beans."

> 'Chilli's like sex. When it's good, it's great. And even when it's bad, it's not so bad'

Quite right too, says fellow Texan George Haddaway, chief chilli-head of the Chilli Appreciation Society International (CASI). He reckons beans were added by damn Yankees while American troops were helping their allies in Europe during the Second World War.

"Beans are sacrilege," he says. "Serve them on the side if you want, but don't cook them in the chilli. But what the heck, chilli's like sex. When it's good, it's great. And even when it's bad, it's not so bad. Here's to chilli, fevered friend of man. We eat it willy-nilly, but never from a can."

Laugh if you must. But chilli, with recipes varying enormously from state to state, is a serious business in the United States. Fiercely contested regional and national cook-off competitions have been held annually, ever since the "to bean or not to bean" debate divided the country 25 years ago.

Not only is the honour of a competitor's state at stake: the chilli business, from El Paso corn chips to Five-Alarm chilli powder — and the beer you drink with it — is a multimillion dollar industry, with a lot riding on the cook-offs. It is no coincidence that Budweiser is sponsoring Channel 4's Super Bowl coverage tomorrow night, expected to be watched by 1.5 million viewers in Britain.

The commercialism of chilli saddens Mr Haddaway, whose missionary zeal is confined to the pursuit of excellence. CASI members are encouraged to hand out printed marking slips to proprietors of restaurants where they have eaten a bowl of red. They grade the establishment's chilli in nine categories, from "excellent" through "it stinks" down to "you should be ashamed".

Missouri-born trapper Kit Carson's dying words are said to have been, "I wish I had time for just one more bowl of chilli." Mr Haddaway, 85, says: "I'll drink to that — preferably with a bottle of Bud."

Mom Hensey's Sleepy Hollow Chilli

(serves 8)

3lb stewing beef, cubed, trimmed and finely sliced
1lb round beef, cubed and finely sliced
1 large onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 15oz can tomato sauce
1 can Budweiser beer
3 fresh jalapeños (small green chilli peppers) chopped
2tbsp cumin
2tbsp chilli powder
1tbsp salt
1tsp pepper
cooking oil

Brown the meat (*not* minced, but cubed) in your favourite chilli pot. Soften onion and garlic, add tomato sauce, beer and the rest of the ingredients.

Simmer very gently with the lid on for four hours, adding water (or beer) if necessary. the final thickness should be between a sauce and a stew. Check for taste and strength half-way through.

Serve with cornbread or corn chips, green salad and a Bud.

ALASDAIR RILEY

Do things by halves

Jane MacQuitty recommends half-bottles, and not just for abstinence

If you want to drink less but better in 1994, try buying half-bottles. You might spend the same but more than double the pleasure.

Half-bottles deserve respect for plenty of other reasons. Most of us, if we are honest, know that we overdid it during the festivities and a half-bottle is an effortless way of cutting down your January intake. There are those, such as the elderly, infirm and pregnant, who, for health reasons, feel that they should cut down to a half-bottle. Halves are also a convenient size for those who live alone. And those who have to drive after drinking should see the sense of half-bottles too. This nifty size is not all about abstinence, however, as several indulgent gourmets I know partner each tier of their multi-course meals with a different half.

The disadvantage of half-bottles is that most carry a price premium compared with full bottles. It costs more to bottle and label a half for sale, as the runs of this speciality size are rare and producers are often reluctant to release any at all. Popular high-street wines, such as Waitrose's Good Ordinary Claret, £1.89 a half and £2.99 a bottle, demand quite a premium for the privilege of buying this useful size. Yet the alternative — buying a full bottle and corking up the remainder — misses the point, and despite the makers' claims, I have yet to find a wine preserver that really works.

Beware too of suspiciously old vintages of everyday half-bottles; smaller wine sizes mature much faster than big ones, and while gracefully mature fine wine is often an in-built advantage for the half-bottle drinker, dreary, dried-out everyday bottles are a hazard. Unless you know the wine, the trick with good ordinary halves is to make certain the vintage is the same as the most recent full-bottle, or at most one year behind.

Not so long ago the range of half-bottles on sale here was dire. Heaps of liebfraumilch halves and the like in the high street but, apart from the odd, usually lacklustre sherry and sweet wine, no fine wine at all. Even specialists' lists only braved the odd page or two of decent halves. Now the supermarkets offer some delicious half-bottle sweet and dry wine buys, and the specialist ranges run to hundreds.

The biggest range of specialist mail-order half-bottles (more than 300 by my calculation) is currently available from the appropriately named Halves, Wood Yard, off Corve Street in Ludlow, Shropshire. The good news for Londoners is that the same range is now on sale at The Wine Treasury's shop, part-owned by Halves, at 899-901 Fulham Road, London SW6.

Despite the recession, Tim Jackson, who runs Halves, has consistently expanded since he started three years ago and although he grumbles that eastern Europe and South American halves are virtually impossible to find, almost everywhere else in the world is covered. This is the place to go if you are after toothsome Italians — with 32 to choose from, including the excellent savoury oregano-redolent 1991 Cavalchina Bardolino (£3.29) — a mixed case of 1991 vintage ports, good California and Australian wines — try the cassis, eucalyptus and tar-like 1987 Taltarni Cabernet Sauvignon (£4.59; — plus some decent liqueurs and Alsace *eaux de vie*.

France takes the lion's share of the Halves' list and good buys include a stylish, crisp, flowering current-styled 1992 Sancerre from Gérard Morin (£4.49), the lychee, rose and violet-scented 1992 Alsace Gewürztraminer from Riefle (£4.49) and reds such as the dusky-musky 1992 Chinon Les Gravières from Couly-Dutheil (£3.99).

If it is the finest and rarest mature vintage halves you are after, then T & W Wines, 51 King Street, Thetford, Norfolk, is where you should go, especially as they are offering free delivery this month and next on any order of 24 halves. With 250 or so top-drawer half-bottles to choose from, my vote goes to clarets such as the 1986 Gruaud-Larose (£13.70), 1983 Talbot (£11.70), mature rhônes from Guigal and an astonishingly long list of the top white and red burgundy names, plus fine Alsace fare from Trimbach and Hugel.

Typically, Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex, offers more than 150 first-division French bottles and is especially good on claret, champagne and burgundy. Ultra-selective Adnams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk, offers about 70 halves, including an appealing well-priced mixed case of 12 different halves, two of each for £87, delivered.

DENZIL McNEILANCE



Tim Jackson, of Halves in Ludlow, Shropshire, stocks half-bottles from around the world

BEST BUYS

Best Half-Bottle Wine Buys:

- **1989 Château de Berbec, 1ères Côtes de Bordeaux:** *Safeway and Oddbins £3.49; full bottles from Wine Rack and Bottoms Up £6.49.* Luscious peach and pineapple-layered, first-division pudding wine at a knockdown price.
- **1988 Late Harvest Botricised white wine:** *J.P. Vinhos, Safeway £5.25.* Gorgeous rich, apricot and crème brûlée flavours.
- **1992 Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough:** *Tesco and The Victoria Wine Company £2.99.* Ripe, intense, gooseberry and tropical fruit-laden kiwi sauvignon, the high street's top dry white half-bottle.
- **1992 Château de Saint-Amour Beaujolais:** *Waitrose £2.99.* The dry red equivalent of the wine above, vibrant with cherry and damson plum fruit.
- **1991 Cavalchina Bardolino:** *Halves, c/o The Wine Treasury, 899-901 Fulham Road, London SW6 £3.29.* Savoury Italian red reeking of oregano and rosemary.
- **1987 Taltarni Cabernet Sauvignon:** *Halves, c/o The Wine Treasury £4.59.* Ripe, well-made typical Australian cabernet with cassis, eucalyptus and tar.
- **1992 Chinon, Les Gravières, Couly-Dutheil:** *Halves, c/o The Wine Treasury £3.99.* Traditional, crimson purple, rich, dusky-musky Loire red from a top grower.



DISH OF THE DAY

Chef: Sonya Kidney.

Born: Barbados.

Restaurant: Marsh Goose, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (0608-652111).

Present: Working in partnership with Gordon Campbell-Gray and her husband Leo Brooke-Little, who operates the computer, keeps accounts, and does front of house at weekends.

Past: Started in cookery via a Tops course at age 25. Joined Mr Campbell-Gray as pastry cook at the Feathers in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, after stints in London, the Lake District and the Isle of Man, and was promoted to head chef before they moved to Moreton three years ago.

Future: "I'd like to come back to London, starting up a place similar to this one, while still keeping this one on. I think it would work, because the food does not have any definitive country stamp on it. It's just a question of finding someone who has the money to do it with."

Personal: "I love reading poetry, especially Philip Larkin."

Dish: Straw potato cakes with smoked halibut and spinach, served with a light butter sauce and a fried quail's egg. "One of my favourites, it's so popular every time I put it on." £8 *à la carte* at lunch, or as starter in the £23 fixed-price three-course dinner.

R.Y.

A taste of the East

Continuing her series on supermarket shopping, **Frances Bissell** checks out her local Budgen



DIANA LEADBETTER

The TIMES COOK

Only a ten-minute walk from my home in north London is a branch of Budgen that I use as my corner shop, replenishing supplies of washing-up liquid, paper towels, milk, eggs and fresh juice. Occasionally, I shop there for food, which can be both rewarding and frustrating: rewarding because I might find cartons of fresh goats milk; frustrating because goats milk is not there on my next trip.

Sometimes I find Doves Farm organic flour. Once I was pleased to find *crème fraîche* for less than 60p a tub. On following visits, it was 69p, then 97p, and finally disappeared for ever. Budgen was ever thus. Twenty years ago, I remember finding French lavender sugar in a local Budgen.

Unlike many of the other multiples, Budgen has little in the way of own-label produce, just milk, tinned fruit and vegetables, and some nut and seed oils. Also, it does not promote its meat with descriptive shelf-labelling about organic, premium products.



Home Farm free-range chickens are available, as are, in season, small, free-range turkeys from Yorkshire.

On my last visit, the local Budgen had a good range of grains, pulses and nuts under the Cypress, Good Earth and Idriss labels. These suggest a meal with Middle Eastern flavours, one which appeals to vegetarians. The vegetable display had peppers, courgettes and aubergines at £1.29 to £1.39 a lb. I grill these to serve with couscous, accompanied by a spicy stew of green vegetables and chickpeas.

As an alternative main course, I might use some of the same ingredients but add okra and chillies to make a vegetable gumbo, a thick soup or stew, which I serve with rice. Or, with marrow, pumpkin and flat beans, I might make a *guisado*, an Andalucian vegetable stew, to which I add plenty of pimento or paprika for colour and flavour, chickpeas for protein and potatoes for substance.

New *Italian Elvira potatoes* were on sale at 25p a lb, and new English Maris pears at £1.49 per 1½lb bag.

For starters, I suggest a subtle dish of cooked fennel and onions, topped with sardines or, for vegetarians, toasted nuts. Smoked salmon pieces are £3 for an 8oz pack, which can be made into a pleasant spread for toast.

Italian pears were good value at 39p a lb. I poach these in red wine with spices, or white wine with herbs. Alternatively, for a more elaborate pudding, I make something with apricots, imported somewhat under-ripe but selling at only 89p a lb. There were baskets of Kiwi fruit for 98p and mangoes for 89p each.

If I have no time to cook, I might buy the Triballat *crème brulée*, £1.59 for two, which comes in useful little glass pots, and which I know is served in one well-known group of restaurants. A good product, this tastes like one I would make at home. It is the only ready-made dish in Budgen that I am tempted to buy.

I do not think I would like the "bacon grills", which comprise "minced bacon, coated in processed cheddar cheese and extra crispy breadcrumbs".

WINE: while Budgen has cheap wine, such as the 1993 Table Mountain Pinot Noir and 1992 Sauvignon Blanc from South Africa at £3.29, it is well worth paying more for a wine with a distinct character and flavour, such as the red Inglenook Zinfandel at £5.69.

Budgen's 1985 Charbono is more interesting: a dark, tannin wine with a real *goût du terroir*, it goes well with matured hard cheese, such as Parmesan or old Gouda.

For a white wine with plenty of character, the 1990 Gisselbrecht at £6.49 is the one to choose. Best of all is the Brossault Rosé Champagne, which at only £8.49 tastes like something much grander. Good now, it will be splendid for summer weddings.

Sweet fennel and onion confit with olives and sardines

(serves 4)

3 large mild onions, peeled and thinly sliced
3tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 round fennel bulbs, sliced
2-3tbsp white wine, water or vegetable stock
½tsp ground cumin
salt, freshly ground black pepper
2-3tbsp sultanas or raisins
2-3tbsp toasted pinenuts or flaked almonds
12 black olives
2 cans of sardines in olive oil

Gently fry the onion in oil for ten-15 minutes and then add the fennel, the liquid and cumin and coriander. Continue cooking for 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and stir in the fruit and nuts. Spoon the mixture on to plates and serve hot, warm or cold, with a few olives and a couple of drained sardines on top. Use the feathery fennel tops for garnish.

For a more substantial starter, heap the mixture on to hot pitta bread, and for an elaborate dish, on rounds of pre-baked pastry, enriched with egg yolk and made very short and crisp with plenty of butter or vegetable shortening.

Using some of the same ingredients, a quick and refreshing starter can be made by thinly slicing round fennel bulbs, spreading them with olive paste, and topping with a spoonful of thick yoghurt.

Vegetarian couscous royale

(serves 6-8)

Spiced green vegetable and chickpea stew
2 onions, peeled and chopped
2 leeks, trimmed, sliced and washed
2 celery stalks, trimmed and sliced
2tbsp olive oil
½tsp ground cardamom
½tsp ground cumin
½tsp ground coriander
½tsp mixed spices
6oz/170g green beans, topped, tailed and sliced, if necessary
6oz/170g Savoy cabbage, shredded
2pt/1.15l vegetable stock, or water
14oz/400g drained canned chickpeas, or soaked and cooked chickpeas
fresh coriander for garnish

Gently fry the first three vegetables in a saucepan or casserole. Sprinkle on the spices and stir in. Add the green vegetables and stock and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the chickpeas and cook for a further ten minutes.



Chop the coriander and stir in before serving. Broccoli, kohlrabi and cauliflower can also be used in the stew.

Couscous

The easiest way to prepare couscous, as most of what we buy is pre-cooked, is to measure out 2½-3oz/70-85g for each person and, for every portion, sprinkle on a tablespoon or two of hot water. Stir, cover with a tight-fitting lid and set over a very low heat, using a heat-diffusing mat, if possible, to avoid burning. Check after ten minutes and break up the couscous with two forks to separate the grains. It will still be firm, so add the same quantity of water once again and cover for five to ten minutes. You might need to do this a third time before it is cooked to your liking. The grains should be dry, tender and fluffy, not at all soggy. An alternative cooking method is to steam the couscous in a sieve over the vegetable stew.

Grilled vegetables

2 large aubergines
1½-2lb/680-900g courgettes
4 peppers — red, yellow or both
extra virgin olive oil

Slice the aubergines lengthways, somewhat less than ½in/1cm thick. Slice the courgettes into thick, oblique slices with a broad cut surface, and quarter and deseed the peppers. Place on a well-oiled grill pan or griddle, brush vegetables with oil, and cook at a moderately high heat, turning once until the vegetables are tender and a good colour. When cool enough to handle, peel the peppers.

To serve, heap the couscous on to a platter or a shallow bowl, arrange the grilled vegetables around it, and garnish with olives, coriander leaves and toasted almonds and raisins. The stew is served separately and eaten with the grains and grilled vegetables. Harissa, the hot chilli sauce, is the usual accompaniment, a little on the side, to be added to each mouthful. It is usually sold in colourful yellow tubes under the name Le Pahre du Cap Bon. If you buy it in small cans, transfer the contents to a small plastic or glass container. I store mine in the refrigerator where it seems to keep almost indefinitely.

Clafoutis is the name of the traditional harvest dish from central France, a baked batter pudding stuffed full of ripe cherries. The name is now used in France and elsewhere to describe dishes cooked in a similar way, and sometimes not so similiar. I have come across *clafoutis* baked in pastry crusts, but I do not believe it was ever intended to be such a complicated dish. Here it is in its simplest version. Like many custard/quiche-like dishes, this is best served warm with whatever accompaniment you like, clotted cream, ice-cream, yoghurt, cream, or, if you can get it, *crème fraîche*.

Apricot clafoutis

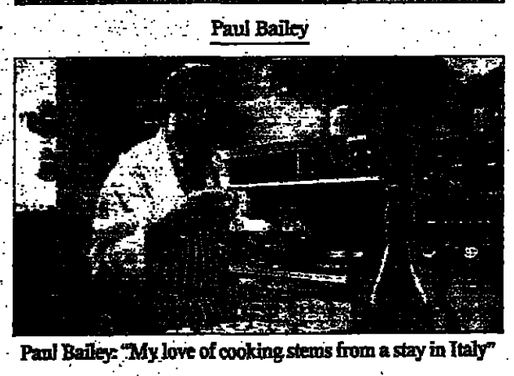
(serves 6-8)

1oz/30g butter
1-1½lb/455-680g apricots
4 free-range eggs
4oz/110g self-raising flour
1pt/580ml milk
3oz/85g caster sugar
3tbsp orange or almond liqueur
3tbsp melted butter
grating of nutmeg

Butter an oven-proof dish and add the apricots after stoning. Make a batter and, with the remaining ingredients, pour over fruit and bake in the centre of a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for ten minutes. Then turn down the heat to 180C/350F, gas mark 4, and bake for another 30 minutes or so.

Conviviality is the key

Paul Bailey



Paul Bailey: "My love of cooking stems from a stay in Italy"

Writing can be a solitary business, which is perhaps one reason why I enjoy having regular dinner parties for six or so in the winter and up to a dozen for Sunday lunch throughout the rest of the year, sometimes twice a month. We have nibbles downstairs at about 2.30pm, then migrate upstairs to the kitchen and while away the hours eating and talking until the early evening.

Half the fun of entertaining is poking around markets for the food beforehand, either locally for vegetables in Shepherd's Bush market, west London, or further afield in Soho for fish and meat. I have many vegetarian friends, so sometimes I cook entirely vegetarian meals. I take cooking seriously, but conviviality is what counts above all.

My mother, who was in domestic service, was a good cook. But I suppose my love of cooking stems from the time in my late twenties when I spent six months with a family in Florence. I used to go into the kitchen to watch the grandmother, who would spend a couple of hours every day preparing meals in a calm, untroubled way.

As for cookery books, I prefer old faithfuls, which I read time and time again: Elizabeth David, Claudia Roden, Jane Grigson. Some are about food without being lists of recipes: for example, *Honey from a Weed* by Patience Gray, which is an eccentric account of the author's life and the food she enjoyed in Greece, Spain, Italy and France, where she lived with her sculptor husband. She mentions a Greek dish of aubergines, baked with olive oil, herbs and local wine, which I adapted and now cook regularly.

Jane Grigson and I were great friends. The year before she died, the two of us went on an outrageous ten-day eating tour of Scotland. It cheered us up immensely. One of the highlights was the Peat Inn, near St Andrews, where the chef-patron, David Wilson, made one of the best sweets I have ever tasted: a little pot of chocolate and rosemary cream. I told him so and he gave me the recipe.

Some of my favourite dishes come from my travels, pottering around markets and searching out restaurants in unlikely places where, if I am lucky, the chef will invite me into the kitchen and show me how to cook the wonderful dish I have just eaten.

So, for starters, I might do the aubergine dish and peppers roasted with pine nuts. Or a soup such as celeriac or sweet potato and coriander. Then, if it is winter, an Italian beef-dish such as *stracotto*, which literally means "overcooked". After the beef has been in a closed pot, cooking with herbs and wine for three hours, it falls in shreds.

Many of the people who sit around my table are from the publishing world: writers, editors, agents and so on. Perhaps some Italian friends visiting London, or actor friends from the old days. Everybody enjoys eating, but more than that they all enjoy each other's company.

Sometimes people just turn up for tea, in which case they get home-made jam which I like making best of all. Creole jam, made from bananas, limes, cinnamon and rum, for example, or elderberry jam. There is a tremendously mixed community where I live, so the local markets are full of produce from all over the world. But the elderberries are picked by friends from a bush in Chiswick Mall just a short bicycle-ride away.

Little pot of chocolate and rosemary cream

(serves 6)

1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup dry white wine
juice of ½ lemon
2½ cups double cream
1 stem fresh rosemary
(or 1 tsp dried)
5½oz best quality dark chocolate

In a heavy pan, mix sugar, wine and lemon juice. Heat until dissolved, stir occasionally. Stir in cream. Mixture will thicken. Add rosemary. Grate chocolate and add to mixture. Stir until dissolved. Bring back to boil, simmer very gently for about 20 minutes or until the mixture is dark and thick. Leave to cool, then pour through sieve into pots. Cover with clingfilm and refrigerate until required.

Interview by Alastair Riley

Paul Bailey is an award-winning novelist and biographer.

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A ministry on the slippery slope



Ruth Gledhill dons skis for a winter holiday with a Christian message

WITH my skis askew and fingers stiff with cold, I used the name of the Lord in vain as I hurtled out of control down the mogul field, to land at the bottom in a heap of fluffy white powder with an aching back that all my subsequent prayers proved unable to relieve. Luckily, I was skiing with a Christian group. One by one, my fellow skiers picked up the trail of sticks, skis, goggles and gloves that lay behind me and put me on my feet again.

Silhouetted above me against the deep blue sky, I could see the figures of the two Bond brothers, Derek and Barry, who were leading our worship for the week. They were stationary on their skis, and were often to be seen thus, lost in contemplation of the beauty around them.

I was in Austria with a group of about 45 people, a mixture of beginners and advanced skiers, most of whom were evangelical Christians, members of Anglican, Baptist or other free churches. The group included one general practitioner and two hospital doctors, useful when it came to analysing pains each evening.

Most of the group had never been on a secular skiing holiday. As one of the few bachelors, Philip Harrison, put it: "Christian ski holidays are great value. You meet nice people, ski with nice people and eat with nice people. Afterwards, you go to sleep with an easy conscience — and if not, there's always forgiveness." Barry Bond, an elder of the Colwyn Bay Baptist Church in North Wales, said: "Masterski is not a travel company, it is a ministry."

After a hard day on the slopes, my last wish was to go to church. But our nightly services in a downstairs room in our pension, accompanied by Barry or Derek Bond on an acoustic guitar, proved a necessary spiritual resource when negotiating the bumpy slopes of human relationships with so many strangers. Each night, we "praised the Lord" for the sunshine, snow and lack of serious injury.

The tone was set on the first night. Barry Bond, 44, said: "We have probably all been blessed today as we have stood up there and seen the snow and sun and its beauty." He added: "Lord, we know there have been falls and slips and spills, but Lord, we have been safe. We pray for the continued safety of all of us."

By Tuesday, we were praying hard for those with bumps and bruises, and most chose to sit rather than stand for the hymns. Some of us, intimidated by the large amount of ice, sang the words "Snow on me" during the popular evangelical hymn "Reign in Me".

By day three, we were addressing the issue of fear. Barry Bond said: "It is a healthy fear to say, 'I have never skied before and I am not going to go down that black run.' But in the Authorised Version of the Bible it says "fear not" 365 times. I am not saying be so without fear as to think that a skiing accident might be good for me. But sometimes we are so gripped by fear that we cannot enjoy life."

Skiing with us was Bob Fleming, who founded Masterski with his wife Jill ten years ago. He said: "We just felt God nudged us into it. We had never been skiing before. We tried hard not to be a tour operator because we wanted to be a ministry."

WE were based in Haus, a 1,000-year-old town in the county of Steiermark, where the local church has a crucifix dating from 1150, the oldest in the county. Between 1600 and 1781, when Protestants were oppressed, a strong resistance built up in the area, and off-piste skiers can today reach the Priest's Chair, a landmark in the mountains where Protestants used to meet secretly.

By the last day, few could say their lives were unchanged by the exhilarating combination of such tradition with the scenery, skiing, sun and spirituality. Standing on top of the tallest mountain for a farewell prayer meeting, Derek Bond prayed: "Father, we thank you that you have created all this beauty around us. Thank you that you have taken over our lives and have changed us, causing us to know what it is to be secure in the knowledge that we are forgiven."

The sun disappeared behind a cloud and snow began to fall for the first time that week as we sang: "We give thanks to you Lord."

Masterski Christian ski holiday at Haus and Schladming, Austria. (081-942 9442)
LEADERS: Derek and Barry Bond.
ARCHITECTURE: Stone and pine chalet-style Pension Ennstal in pretty Austrian village of Haus.★★★★★
SERMONS: Series of talks on spiritual fortitude.★★★★
MUSIC: Lively guitar accompaniment to well-known Gospel songs.★★★
LITURGY: Meetings structured loosely around songs, prayer and discussion.★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Endless cups of hot chocolate, with prayers and counselling.★★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Unbeatable combination of elation and terror on the slopes.★★★★★
★ *stars are awarded to a maximum of five*

RUTH GLEDHILL



Skiers on a Christian holiday take a rest at a mountain-top memorial cross

vices & VIRTUES

Edward Marriott persuades people in the public eye to confess their sins and celebrate their saving graces



DOUGLAS DUNN
Poet

Gluttony: I do get peckish quite often, and halfway through dinner I'm often still peckish. I haven't been on a diet for a long time and I am quite portly. I contemplate dieting, particularly when I pass the wardrobe mirror in the morning.

Sloth: I find it necessary to have short periods of waging all-out lethargy, all-out indolence. You could call them holidays.

Wrath: I have thrown spectacular tantrums in my time but I'm not the sort of person to hit someone. I use language to curb my anger — that's not a good thing, it would be more honest to be more forthright.

Pride: I'm not consistently proud, although I've known pride a few times. When my first book, *Terry Street*, was published in 1969, I felt very proud to have published a book. With each book that pride decreases. I felt very proud when my first child was born. I don't think I'm guilty of pride as a vice.

Lust: Guilty, m'lord. I'm a happily married man, with two young children. But, although I'm totally disinclined to do anything that would jeopardise my marriage, I would have to be blind not to notice the high standard of pulchritude around the university campus.

Envy: I do not envy other people's possessions. I am 5ft 6in. When I was younger, I used to be jealous of anyone who was 5ft 7ins. Apart from that, though, I'm not a jealous person.

Avarice: There's no point in being greedy in my position. I'm a university professor and writer. Neither will bring much money.

Justice: So much is out of one's hands — anyone who believes in justice cannot read the newspapers. For myself, I try to be fair when I'm marking exams.

Fortitude: I have known dark days in my life when it was hard to carry on. My first wife died of cancer when she was 35. Being with her during that period certainly put my sense of fortitude in perspective — hers was a lot bigger than mine.

Charity: I hope I'm capable of disinterested benevolence. I have done a few uncharitable things in my life, but I have done my bit in unpaid public works — I'm on the Scottish Arts Council's literature committee. I give a week of each year to charity. It keeps my soul together.

Prudence: I cannot afford to be extravagant, but on the other hand I quite often spend a lot on books. I am prudent but I'm not cautious.

Hope: I'm too cynical to rely on hope. Hope is the acceptable face of pessimism.

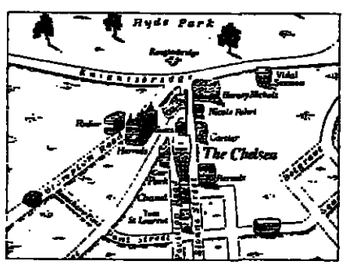
Faith: I am not a religious person in the denominational sense. But I do have a religious sense — any lyric poet is prone to perceive the spiritual dimension of life.

Temperance: Like all aboriginal Scots, I do have a fondness for a dram — Springbank, by preference — which is occasionally taken to excess. But I do think that Scots are misrepresented when it comes to drink. There are lot of teetotal people up here.

● *Douglas Dunn is professor of English at St Andrews University.*

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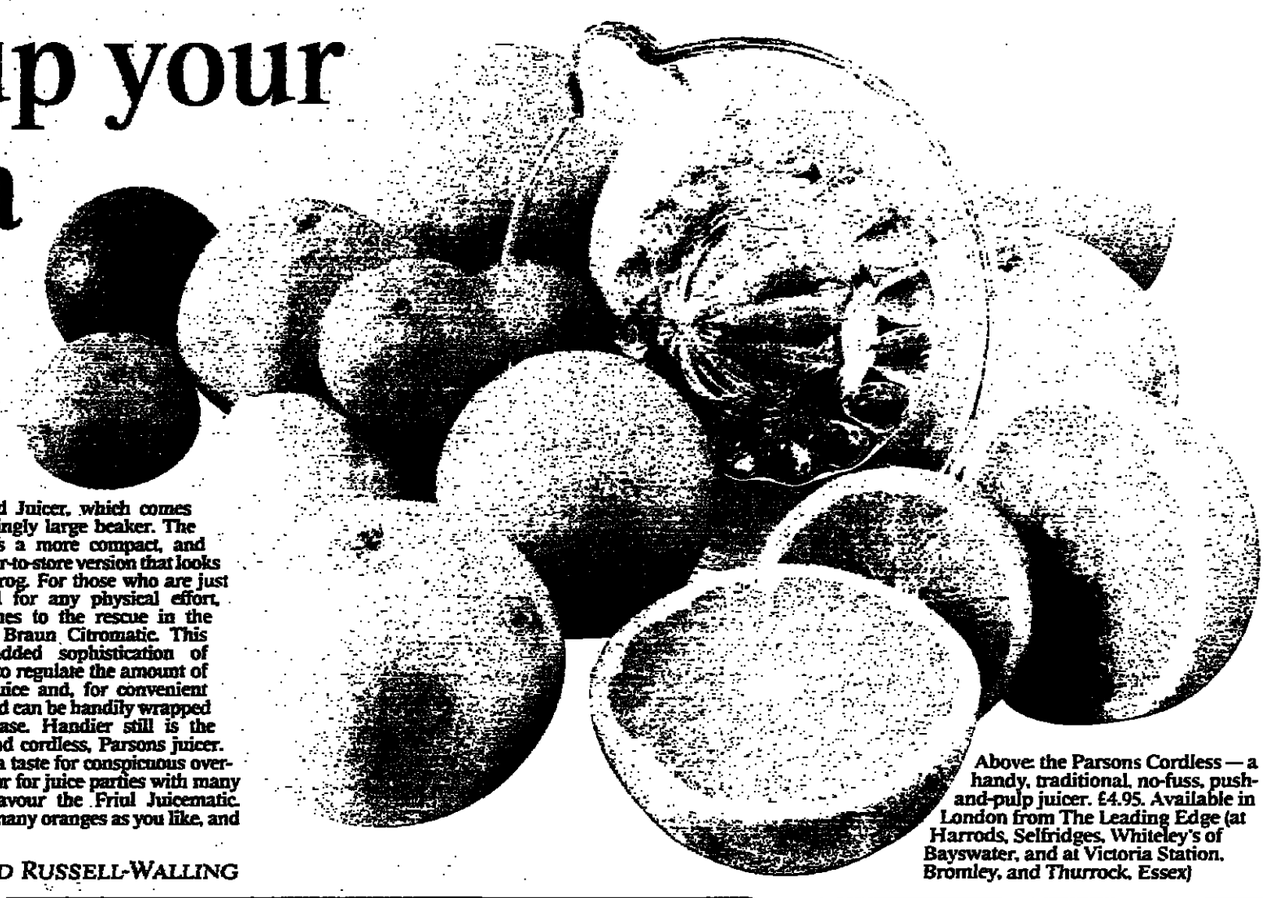
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Freshen up your day with a friendly squeeze



It is an early morning irony that when you most need fresh juice from an orange you are usually most reluctant to go to the effort of squeezing it yourself and are likely to resort to the box from the fridge instead. In fact, to squeeze or not to squeeze is all a matter of equipment.

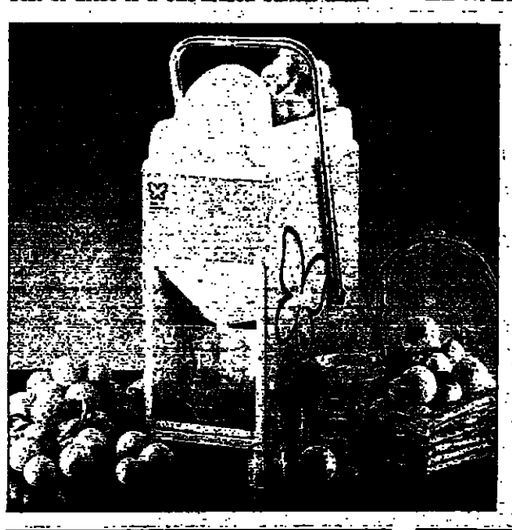
Punishing innocent citrus can make for a cathartic start to the day. Turning oranges into juice in the 1990s is about degrees of automation. For old-fashioned slice and twist, the most stylish device is Philippe Starck's Gotham City water tower, which marries function and cross-referential form in the best post-modernist tradition. Although I am told it is out of vogue this year, it will be a collector's piece a century from now.

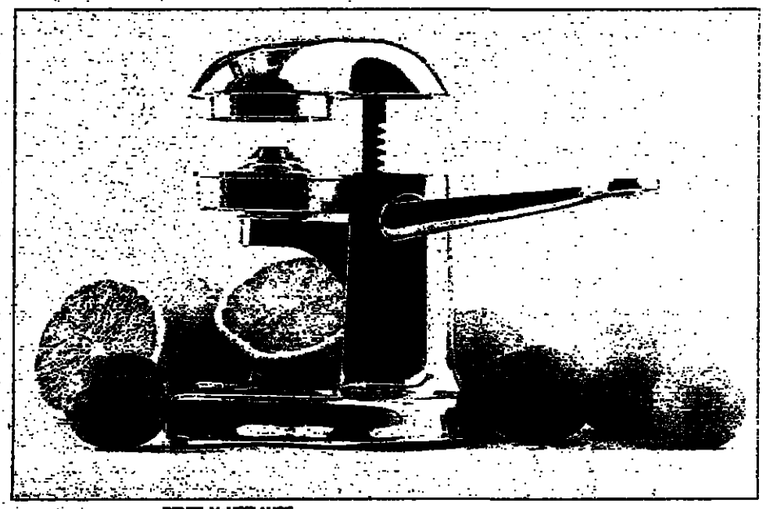
If the Starck device requires altogether too much early morning wrist action, other kill-that-fruit appliances demand less effort. The best of these is a one-armed bandit affair called a Hand Juicer, which comes with a satisfyingly large beaker. The New Juicer is a more compact, and therefore easier-to-store version that looks rather like a frog. For those who are just too exhausted for any physical effort, electricity comes to the rescue in the shape of the Braun Citromatic. This boasts the added sophistication of allowing you to regulate the amount of pulp in the juice and, for convenient storage, its cord can be handily wrapped around the base. Handier still is the diminutive, and cordless, Parsons juicer.

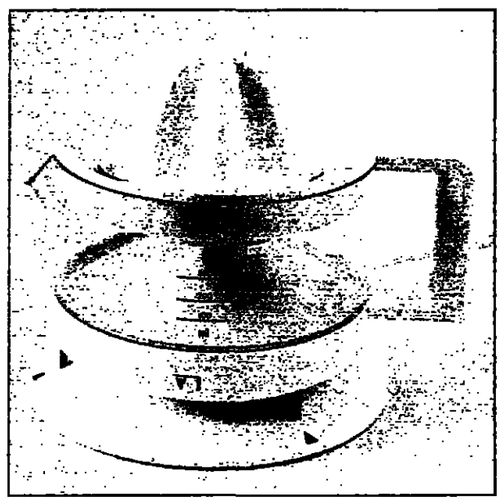
Those with a taste for conspicuous over-specification, or for juice parties with many guests may favour the Friul Juicematic. Load with as many oranges as you like, and crank.

EDWARD RUSSELL-WALLING

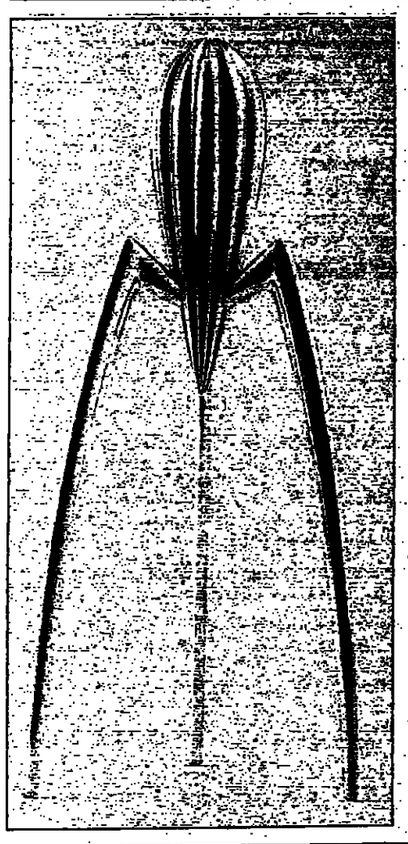
Above: the Parsons Cordless — a handy, traditional, no-fuss, push-and-pulp juicer. £4.95. Available in London from The Leading Edge (at Harrods, Selfridges, Whiteley's of Bayswater, and at Victoria Station, Bromley, and Thurrock, Essex)

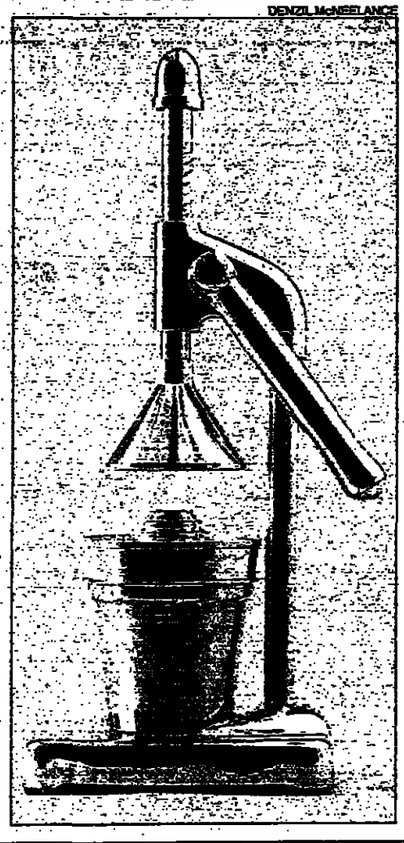






DENZIL McKELLANCE





Above left: Friul Juicematic, for serious squeezing. £1,320 plus VAT. Robot Coupe, 62 Westbourne Grove, London W2 (071-229 7681).

Centre: The New Juicer. £29.95. Habitat, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-631 3880) and around the country.

Right: Braun Citromatic 7, with adjustable pulp control. £18.95. Heal's at 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-636 1666) and at the Tunsgate Centre, Guildford, Surrey (0483 576715).

Far left: Philippe Starck citrus squeezer; a collector's piece. £44.45. Aria, 133 Upper Street, London N1 (071-226 1021).

Left: One-armed bandit Hand Juicer. £48.50. The Conran Shop, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-589 7401), and elsewhere

Salerooms

SONYA Coode-Adams, an art consultant, has provided a new outlet for contemporary artists. Next Wednesday she takes over the **Benjamin Rhodes Gallery** in London's West End for an exhibition featuring the work of 30 largely unsung artists. They include Humphrey Spender, Stephen Farthing and Patrick Caulfield.

☐ From Tuesday, the surreal world of Richard Eurich RA (1903-1992) can be seen at the **Fine Art Society**, where prices range from £1,000 to £8,000. *From Thursday, an* ambitious new series of works by Norman Adams RA, 67, is at the **Bruton Street Gallery**. Prices from £950 to £11,000.

☐ Collectors of modern illustrated books will have a field day at **Christie's** South Kensington on Friday when 6,000 mint-condition examples from the collection of the Boston lawyer John Merriam are dispersed. Highlights include children's books illustrated by Arthur Rackham (1867-1939). J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* is estimated at £700-£1,000.

☐ **Bonhams'** sale of Applied Art on Friday features a choice of kitsch pottery by the Wemyss factory in Scotland, including a pig decorated with thistles (£1,000-£1,500) and a cat with cabbage roses at £600-£900. For more sophisticated tastes, an elegant suite of Viennese furniture by Josef Hoffmann is valued at £8,000-£10,000, and a set of six Café Fledermaus chairs at £5,000-£7,000.

☐ The leading lot at the **Bonhams'** sale of the F.J.G. Haut collection of railway memorabilia, a 19th-century French porcelain coffee-maker in the shape of a locomotive, fetched £8,800 (double its estimate).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Benjamin Rhodes Gallery, 4 New Burlington Place, W1 (071-434 1768). Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 5116). Bruton Street Gallery, 28 Bruton Street, W1 (071-499 9747). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, W1 (071-629 6602).*

What the papers said: **Derwent May**'s bookbuyers' guide

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers.

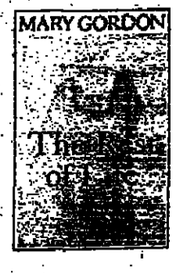


4/5 Slices of Gordon: The American writer Mary Gordon, whose novel *Final Payments* was a best-seller, has brought out three novellas under the title *The Rest of Life* (Bloomsbury £15.99). In *The Guardian*, Jenny Turner said Gordon was "very special indeed" — she "slices back into events, ideas, decisions, accepting that what has happened has happened, but at the same time reopening them to be gone over anew". Though Gordon was brought up a Catholic, "there is no mention of God or sin ... only active, rigorous, all-forgiving thought".

Nicci Gerrard in *The Observer* said that the book "has humour, yet is grainy with a well-seasoned sorrow". In *The Times*, Irving Weinmann declared that the "great novella" *Immaculate Man* was "the most genuine and generous praise of a man's love for a woman, by a woman, that I've ever read"; while Peter Kemp in *The Sunday Times* found the novellas "unflinching" and "glinting with wintry wit".

There was little opposition to this adoring chorus, though Katie Owen in *The Sunday Telegraph* thought that this book was "less absorbingly readable than her previous work", and Maureen Owen in *The Daily Mail* was impatient. Mary Gordon, she observed, writes about "heroines who muse on the difficulty of being the right sort of women" — but sometimes "these musings leave you thinking life is too short to worry about them."

Col cms: 193



3/5 Harassic Park: Michael Crichton, author of *Jurassic Park*, did not get quite such a friendly greeting from the first reviewers as Mary Gordon did.

His new novel, *Disclosure* (Century £14.99), is about Tom, a computer corporation executive in Seattle, who is sued for sexual harassment by his monstrous boss and ex-mistress Meredith. "A bad book," cried Julie Burchill in *The Spectator*, "bad as in not well written, but bad as in malign, too. Crichton's last two books were about evil dinosaurs and evil Japanese; in *evil women* he seems to have found a hothouse hybrid of the two — brutal, sly, with enormous appetites and smelling of sushi." Crichton pretends to be dealing with sexual harassment, she went on, but "he completely ignores the source of it — *male aggression*".

In *The Sunday Times*, Penny Perrick said that Crichton was "the master of the shuddery, worst-case, what-if... He knows more than any other living writer what frightens people" — and at present that is "political correctness and the licence it gives to women to act mean".

But she thought that the book was "backlash literature of a very high order, an articulate and thoughtful lament for the bad old days when women could be kept barefoot in the kitchen."

In *The Guardian*, Stephen Unwood, the Marshall McLuhan Professor of Media Studies at Erie Shoat College, Niagara Falls, rose to the splendour of his title. "This book is much more interesting as a media and commercial phenomenon than as a novel," he declared. "I've already ordered 20 copies for my course."

Col cm: 96

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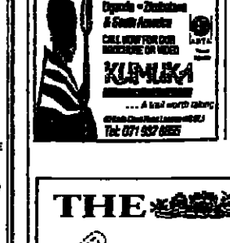
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Whether you are looking for luxurious ball gowns or for elegant swimwear, imaginative young designers are being given their

Buy clothes designed with the help of royalty



Sam Angus wears her own design: cream and black Lycra swimming costume, about £75. Her company, Samantha de Teran, sells swimwear to Harrods, Fenwicks and House of Fraser. "The past few decades have seen the vulgarisation of swimwear to an unprecedented degree," she says. "We have wonderful Lycra and stretch fabrics, yet people have been so lazy with costume design." Her costumes are intended to "translate from beach to bar with no embarrassment".



'No they do not smell," says Marie-Bernadette Callan about her newly launched line of gloves and gauntlets made from the finest Scottish salmon skin. Ambitious and working from home, Ms Callan, 25, is typical of a new breed of fashion entrepreneur supported by The Prince's Youth Business Trust.

Ms Callan discovered a tannery specialising in salmon skin while researching her final project for her fashion degree. The find coincided with a comeback of exotic skin and fur accessories on continental catwalks, and she came up with the idea of using salmon as an alternative.

Last December she set up Aquarelle, selling silk-lined gloves made from salmon skin, and has since expanded into hair bands, buttons, slides and waistcoats. Salmon can be dyed any colour, and the gloves range from palest blue to black with hologram panels. "Foreigners like them because they're unusual, made in Britain and look like luxury leather," says Ms Callan. According to the tanner Roy Brown, aqualeather, as the product is known, is three times stronger than leather, and the only restriction with the skin is the size of the salmon. Waistcoats are, inevitably, made of many pieces.

> 'Attitude, confidence and passion are the keys to their success'

Austin Haynes, a company from Brixton, south London, specialises in softly-structured conventional leather coats, jackets, shirts and trousers. Gee Haynes and Rups Austin started out selling leather jackets from the boot of their car before persuading the trust to give them a loan to set up in business. They have no formal training, but believe "attitude, confidence and passion" are the keys to their success.

Their clothes are classic but "street-wise" and include a colour range of mustard, lilac, reds and greens. "Most of the leather industry is just interested in quantity, but we wanted to combine strong design with high-quality leather," says Mr Austin.

Equally serious about design is Sam Angus, whose





Gee Haynes, of Austin Haynes, wears long black leather coat (left), price £600, and (above) red leather waistcoat, £99, and black leather jogging pants, £180. She and her partner, Rups Austin, started by selling leather jackets from the boot of their car. Annie Gatherum (above), who has worked with Jean-Paul Gaultier, wears an Aztec Baby red "Devil" T-shirt, £10, (popular with mothers of eight-year-old boys) and red and black "cat in the hat", £16.

Photographs by Denzil McNeelance
Shot at Joel & Son Fabrics, 77/81 Church Street, London NW8 8EU (071-724 6895).
Styled by Alicia Drake

THE TIMES VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL OFFER

Champagne truffles

The good taste way to show someone you really care



Here's a delicious way to win the heart of a friend on Valentine's Day: a magnificent gift box of chocolate truffles made with *marc de champagne*.

These are no ordinary chocolates. They are the *grand cru* of tastes. And a pre-marketing exclusive to *The Times* readers.

The slightly crunchy outer shell is in the French-style Valrhona chocolate (a blend of sun-dried Trinitario and Forastero ground and roasted cocoa beans). This style was perfected by Thierry Dumouchel, a *maître patissier*, while working with two leading Paris establishments — Fauchon and Le Notre. M Dumouchel has recently launched Norwood House Truffles of Yorkshire. Inside each chocolate is a mouth-watering combination of *marc de champagne* dark and milk chocolate.

The chocolates — 36 mouthfuls of sheer delight — come in a red velvet heart-shaped presentation box.

After dipping in, the chocolates are best kept in an airtight container in the fridge to preserve the delicate flavours. Bring them back to room temperature before dipping in again.

● To ensure delivery for Valentine's Day, orders must be received by February 8 at the latest.

HOW TO ORDER

By post: please complete and return the coupon with your remittance to: *The Times* Valentine Offer, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7UD.

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Anyone can turn their hand to volleyball

The British like their sports to be of an ancient, preferably noble, origin, idiosyncratic in their rules and esoteric in their vocabulary — witness our passion for rugby, cricket, golf and tennis. This may explain why volleyball, despite an international popularity second only to football, has for so long been resisted. It has the wrong pedigree (invented as recently as 1895 and in America to boot), is straightforward in its rules (no technical niceties to mull over), and is vulgar in terminology (dig, spike and block lack the charm of birdie, deuce or silly mid-on).

This neglect is a pity because the game is admirably suited to our draughty church halls and increasingly sedentary lifestyle. All that is needed is a net and a ball. The court is about a third larger than a badminton court but, as there are five other people to run around your half, you can, at least at recreational level, keep to a gentle glow rather than work up a serious sweat.

Indeed, the game was invented in 1955 by William G. Morgan, a PE instructor at the Holyoke YMCA, in Massachusetts, as a not-too-strenuous form of exercise for overweight businessmen. Made an Olympic sport in 1964, it is now played in 177 countries, with Brazil, Italy, the United States, Japan and Eastern Europe leading the field. Now there are encouraging signs of interest in Britain, largely as a result of promotion by the English Volleyball Association and helped not a little by Tom Cruise's performance in *Top Gun* and by the sporting antics of the sparsely clad lifeguards in the television series *Baywatch*.

An evening spent at Longbenton Community High School, in Newcastle upon Tyne, watching the Puma Volleyball Club helped to overturned some of my preconceived notions about the sport. In the first place, many of the players were short. "It's a misconception that you have to be tall," said Eileen Anderson, regional secretary of the North of England Volleyball Association. "While a powerful drive can help win the point, the whole idea of the game is to drop the ball into an unguarded space."

The supple leather ball, slightly smaller and much lighter than a football, is served from outside the back right-hand side of the court, either under or overarm, to anywhere on the far side of the net. Each team is allowed to pass the ball three times before it has to cross the net (8ft high for men, 7ft 4in for women). The rally is won when the ball is either sent out of the court, when it hits the ground or when it fails to get over the net on the third hit. The ideal sequence is for a back-court player to receive the service with a "dig" — a defensive, blocking shot — passing the ball to a front-court player who then "sets" the ball by a controlled "volley" to another front-court player who then jumps up and "spikes" the ball, a downward smash over the net.

> No sport for prima donnas, but simple fun for democratic spirits of all ages

Points are only won by the serving team: the serve changes when that team loses a rally. The first to get 15 points wins the set (a game): a match is the best of five sets. When a team regains the serve, the players move round one place. Thus, unlike other team games with their set positions, volleyball players get the chance to do everything. Conversely, this means there is no "easy" position where you can idly clean your fingernails. "Teamwork is essential. Volleyball is probably the most team-orientated game," said Mrs Anderson. "A good player can't dominate. There's no room for prima donnas."

This was the attraction for 27-year-old Hilary Metcalfe. "I hated school sports. If you couldn't play well, you were laughed at. In volleyball, people are supportive. Instead of telling you what you did wrong, they tell you what you've done well."

Because teams are supportive, it is perfectly possible to join in a game at your first session even if you have not pulled on a pair of plimsolls since that last, embarrassing, schools sports day.

Athleticism, suppleness, an eye for the ball (it is surprising how carefully you will watch it if you think you're going to be hit on the head) are not prerequisites. The beauty of volleyball is that there are no bits of equipment to get to grips with and no peculiar movements to master. It is disarmingly logical.

You face the direction you want to send the ball. To serve underarm (overarm comes later) you swing your arm like a pendulum, hitting with the heel of the palm (a fist if you prefer but you have less directional control). To "dig" you hold out your arms, elbows locked, one palm folded in the other and literally bounce the ball off your forearms. The "volley" is the same action you make to keep a party balloon in the air. I learnt these rudiments within 15 minutes, and the thrill when my first serve — ignoring the experimental one that rolled under the net — was an ace had me leaping up and down with childish glee.

"Within six weeks, playing once a week, most people reach a competent level of digging and volleying," Mrs Anderson says. The "spike" or smash takes a little longer to master as it requires a degree of co-ordination — jumping up while smashing your upstretched palm down on the ball.

When it comes to rules, volleyball is remarkably laid back. If all else fails, use whatever part of your body is handy, "as long as it's a clean hit and it's above the knee," Mrs Anderson says. "Heading is a popular option with men, although we would rather encourage tactics and skill."

Do not be alarmed by the knee-pads. Diving for the ball is not compulsory. However, it can impress and is a technique much employed by swaggering Lotharios playing beach volleyball. (Same game, although often between teams of two or four people.) And do not think outdoor volleyball is confined to Venice Beach and Mediterranean campsites. "In the summer, we play on Tynemouth beach or in the park," says Irene Wharton, a game 52-year-old, who only took up the sport four years ago. "A lot of people think I'm mad, but when I start to explain the game, they are intrigued."

At national league level, matches can be hard and sweaty, but an evening session with your local club will not leave you in need of an intravenous drip. Rather, it will work up a pleasant thirst that can be assuaged at the local pub.

"It's a very social game," said Tony Hopper, 36, who switched from football partly because of his advancing years and partly because he did not like the competitive pressures. "In much of football and cricket unless you're good, you're never given an opportunity. Whereas in volleyball, you each have a role. On court you won't be sidelined, you'll always be involved."

Volleyball may lack the sophistication and pedigree of some other sports, but when a complete novice, after just half an hour's coaching, can whallop the ball down the other side of the net and win her team a point, who cares?

HELEN PICKLES

Volleyball fact box

☐ **For details** of your nearest club and national league fixtures contact the English Volleyball Association (EVA), 27 South Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7AG (0602 816324); Scottish Volleyball Association, 48 The Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9TJ (031-556 4633); Welsh Volleyball Association, 136 Bwlch Road, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3EF (0222 566417). Northern Ireland Volleyball Association, House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA (0232 649250).

☐ **Some clubs** have coaches and beginners' classes, all offer free tuition. Club costs are usually per session to cover court hire fees (£1-£2). As most clubs play in local leagues, teams are single sex, but practice sessions and friendly games can be mixed. There are no age restrictions.

☐ **Clothing:** a track suit, shorts and T-shirt (Lycra cycling shorts are popular). Any sports shoe with good ankle support is suitable. Avoid running shoes as the wedge soles can hinder quick turning.

☐ **League games** (local, regional and national) are played between September and April. During the summer, clubs organise friendly matches and tournaments.

☐ **Dates:** The Royal Bank of Scotland National Volley Ball Cup Finals, March 19 and 20, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield S2 2BG. Tickets are available from the centre by post, or by credit card (0742 789199). The County Cup, May 14 and 15, at Leeds University — details from the EVA (number above). Sandwell Volleyball Tournament, King George V Playing Fields, West Bromwich, Birmingham, July 2 and 3. Contact Malcolm Taylor, 41 Roundhills Road, Halesowen, Birmingham B62 9RZ (021-422 6168). EVA Beach Volleyball Grand Prix (two-person teams): Bournemouth, June 19 and 20; Bridlington, July 17 and 18; Weymouth, July 31 and August 1; Tynemouth, August 14 and 15. The winning team qualifies for the World Beach Volleyball Grand Prix. To enter, contact the EVA.



chance to provide it thanks to help from The Prince's Youth Business Trust

company, Samantha de Teran, sells swimwear to Harrods, Fenwicks, House of Fraser and Brown Thomas in Dublin. After a degree at Cambridge, Ms Angus did an apprenticeship with the couturier Victor Edelstein and took a pattern-cutting course, before designing her own swimwear range with the help of a loan from the trust.

"The past few decades have seen the vulgarisation of swimwear to an unprecedented degree," Ms Angus says. "We have wonderful Lycra and stretch fabrics, yet people have been lazy with costume design." By contrast her swimwear is one-piece, voluptuous and stylish. Made from unpatterned Lycra and cut to flatter, the costumes are intended to "translate from beach to bar with no embarrassment".

Summer styles include plunging necklines and ladder backs or flirty peplum skirts for the more demure. This autumn, Ms Angus will launch her first collection of skiwear, and ultimately she plans to be a complete sportswear fashion house, emulating the design elegance of British sports clothing in the 1920s.

Aztec Baby, another company backed by the trust, makes enormous "Womble fur" and "Doctor Doolittle" hats, which are a hit with skate and snowboarders. Annie Gatherum, a partner, says: "Snowboarders don't care what they look like — the sillier the better." Ms Gatherum's taste for the outrageous comes from time spent working for fashion divas John Galliano and Jean-Paul Gaultier. Her partner Andy Acton-Peters cites club wear and cartoons as his inspiration.

As well as wacky hats, Aztec Baby makes T-shirts, sweatshirts and soft knitted hats for pop bands to sell as tour merchandise. Among their recent customers were Madness and Jamiroquai. This season's best-seller is a skinny-rib T-shirt in blue and red with the words "Devil", "Angel" or "Kitten" splashed across the chest. Although intended for the club scene, Aztec Baby has noticed the "Devil" T-shirt is popular with mothers of eight-year-old boys.

Sarah Hall is aiming at a different market. She designs made-to-measure cocktail and ball dresses, wedding dresses, outfits for the mother of the bride and clothes for other special occasions. She started working from home three years ago and used a loan from the trust to buy her first industrial sewing machine. She now employs five part-time workers and sells and hires dresses to a clientele ranging from "16-year-olds wanting their first party dress to 60-year-olds". Ms Hall says: "Working in Surrey means the look is not high fashion, it is straight dresses in silk dupion and sand-washed silks with a definite move towards slinky velvets."

For many college leavers and unemployed people trying to break into the fashion business, the trust is a vital source of financial aid, exposure and advice. Set up by the Prince of Wales in 1986, it aims to help 18 to 29-year-olds to start their own businesses. It particularly aims to help the unemployed, disabled, members of ethnic minorities or ex-offenders.

As well as loans and grants, the trust can offer the services of a business adviser to help with accounts and business strategy, marketing seminars, networking and free legal advice. As Ms Callan puts it: "It's pretty tough trying to launch a luxury product when you're living on the dole, but with the trust you know there's always help at hand."

ALICIA DRAKE



Sarah Hall (left) wears green grosgrain, long fitted dress with ostrich feathers, price £200. "Working for women in Surrey means the look is not high fashion, rather straight dresses in silk dupion and sand-washed silks with a definite move towards slinky velvets," she says. She started working from home three years ago and now employs five part-time workers. She sells and hires dresses to a clientele aged from 16 to 60.

THE PRINCE'S TRUST
AND THE ROYAL JUBILEE TRUSTS

☐ The Prince's Youth Business Trust, 5 Cleveland Place, London SW1Y 6JJ (071-321 6500). To apply for a loan of up to £5,000 or a grant of up to £1,500, applicants should have been unemployed for more than six weeks and should have been refused financial aid from elsewhere. Applicants should be aged 18 to 29, or up to 30 for those with a disability.

☐ Austin Haynes, Studio 5, 8 Nursery Road London SW9 8BP (071-738 3878).

☐ Aquarelle, 4 Dunelm Court, South Street, Durham DH1 4QX (091-384 5667).

☐ Samantha de Teran, Studio 2, Barnaby Place, London SW7 3JW (071-225 2616).

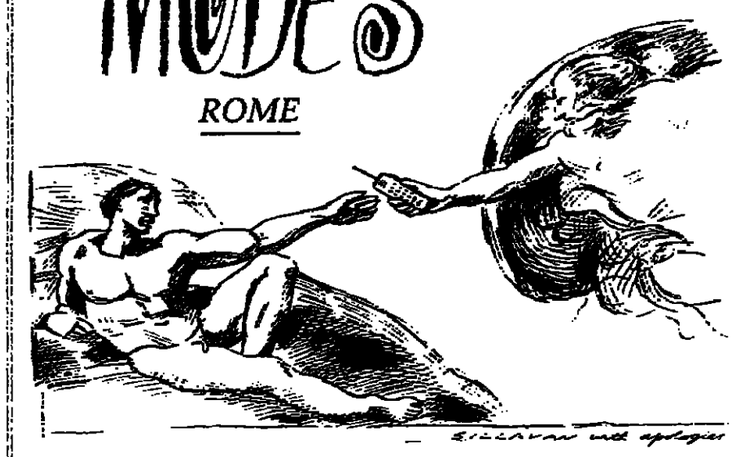
☐ Sarah Hall, Studio 4, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey GU9 9QR (0252 734528).

☐ Aztec Baby, Studio 126, Camberwell Business Centre, 99-103 Lomond Grove, London SE5 7HN (071-701 8459).

Marie-Bernadette Callan (above) wears black aqualeather gauntlets with hologram silver foil panels, price £140, and multi-coloured foil and aqualeather waistcoat, price £160. "Foreigners like them because they're unusual, made in Britain and look like luxury leather," says Ms Callan. Aqualeather, made from salmon skin, is said to be three times stronger than leather and the only restriction with the skin is the size of the salmon.

MODES

ROME



A look at international trends and trend-setters

THE LINE
Italy's boom in *telefonini* is apparently unstoppable: 1.1 million cellular telephones were rented out last year, according to *Panorama* magazine. Pundits disagree if the craze is a good thing. A kidnapped industrialist successfully used one to call for help the other day. But the anti-Mafia judge Paolo Borsellino was blown up in Palermo after the Cosa Nostra tapped a call to his mamma.

THE POSE
One of the mildest Roman winters in years allows *trattorie* to serve lunches outside at the Pantheon, Piazza del Popolo and the Piazza Navona. Roman women profit from the sun to flaunt their legs, furs and the large, long-haired dogs they coop up in tiny flats.

THE CLUB
Fun-loving politicians caught up in the *tangentopoli* (bribe city) corruption scandal rarely leave their homes for fear of being mobbed by angry citizens. But under cover of night, Gianni De Michelis, the former foreign minister and a friend of Douglas Hurd, slips back to his old haunts around the Via Veneto. The long-haired Socialist was spotted at the exclusive Jackie O' club last week with a blonde and a brunette, and a glass of champagne. "I am writing my memoirs," he told reporters. "I will explain how politics really works."

THE TRANSPORT
1. Driving large Alfa Romeos around medieval streets at speed remains a favoured pastime. 2. Francesco Rutelli, the new Green Party mayor, putters around the capital on a moped. He would walk, except that Romans traditionally despise the activity.

THE LUST
A novel activity for winter visitors to the Vatican has been revealed by the actress Stefania Sandrelli, who claims she and a friend made love in St Peter's Basilica. "We were half way up the stairs to the cupola. We were alone and we took advantage of it." Signora Sandrelli, 47, told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera*. Asked if she had planned the escapade, she said, "No, no, it was just an uncontainable wish."

THE MOAN
Telephone sex chat has caught on with talkative Romans, and pornographic actresses are taking advantage. The most sought after interlocutor is Moana Pozzi, the striking blonde leader of the Party of Love, who has time to record erotic tapes after failing in her attempt to be elected mayor of Rome. Fans of Signora Pozzi listened to her moaning for a total of 300,000 minutes last year, compared with 100,000 for her rival, Milly D'Abbraccio, who specialises in chatty sado-masochism.

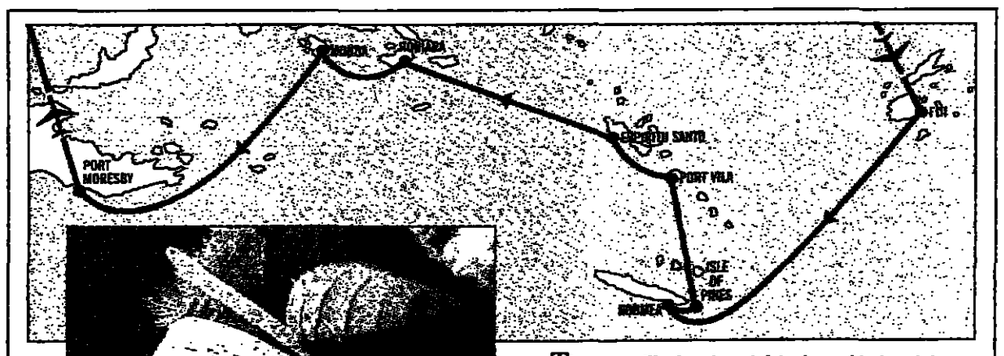


THE CAUSE
Rome's army of 200,000 on the poverty line may not know where they will sleep, but at least they can enjoy classical music while dining, thanks to Susanna Agnelli, sister of the Fiat magnate. She has taken over a basement hall next to the Termini station for use by the charity Caritas. About 500 down-and-outs at a time eat there each night. Signora Agnelli has donated flowers, a stereo unit and classical records.

JOHN PHILLIPS

TED DITCHBURN

Louise Mawe (right) demonstrates the "dig", while she and a fellow member of the Puma Volleyball Club get into the action at the net (bottom right and far right). Below: the Puma team goes into a huddle to discuss tactics. "Volleyball is probably the most team-orientated game."





There are still a few places left in the world where it is possible for a small ship such as the Caledonian Star to sail that are away from the routes frequented by the ever growing numbers of large resort vessels and the ever expanding world of tourism. The South Pacific is surprisingly relatively untouched and it is still possible to cruise for weeks on end in the South Seas without encountering another cruise vessel.

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DAY 2 En-route Crossing International Date Line. Day lost.

DAY 3 Suva, Fiji Arrive in the early morning and drive to the Regent Hotel for a 4 night stay.

DAYS 4,5 & 6 At leisure A half day island excursion will be provided.

DAY 7 Suva Embark the MS Caledonian Star in the afternoon and sail during dinner.

DAYS 8,9 & 10 At sea

DAY 11 Noumea, New Caledonia Scottish by name, but totally French in style. We have the full day to explore this attractive city and island.

DAY 12 Isle of Pines Discovered and named by Captain Cook in 1774 this is an extraordinarily beautiful island offering wonderful views and attractive walks through the forest. Our island drive will include the tiny capital - Vao with its Melanese style government buildings, the ruins of the Penal Colony and some of the beautiful countryside where orchids and ferns dominated by tall pines give way to white sandy beaches and turquoise waters.

DAY 13 At sea

DAY 14 Port Vila, Vanuatu One of the most attractive towns in Oceania, Port Vila is the capital built on a horse-shoe shaped bay and has a decidedly French atmosphere. Some of the best snorkelling on the journey can be found here.

DAY 15 Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides We will explore the South Coast, a lush verdant area of coconut plantations, wild orchids and outstanding beaches. This is very much Somerset Maugham territory and his settings come to life in native villages and colonial homes.

DAYS 16 & 17 At sea

DAY 18 Honiara, Solomon Islands The Solomon's are perhaps best known for their Second World War battles and there will be an opportunity to visit one of the Guadalcanal Battlefields.

DAY 19 Munda, New Georgia Islands This area was infamous for its head-hunters up until the 1890's and incidents still occurred into the 1930's. Munda was an important WW II base for the Japanese and there are many reminders of both the Japanese and American occupation scattered over Roviana Lagoon. The lagoon is immense stretching some 52 km and is protected by raised coral offshore reefs 20 to 40 metres high. Weather permitting we shall explore the lagoon and some of its small coral islands.

DAYS 20,21 & 22 At sea Cruising the Coral Sea.

DAY 23 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea Disembark in the morning and drive to the Travel Lodge hotel for an overnight stay. Half day excursion of the city including National Museum and Parliament Building.

DAY 24 Port Moresby - London via Singapore with Singapore Airlines. (Optional stop over in Singapore.)

DAY 25 London (Heathrow) Arrive in the morning.

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Classic masters

Formal elegance, simplicity, dignity and correctness of style were all qualities of the Classical period in music, which is featured in this week's offer of the CD/cassette *Classical Times* — the second in our series.

However, such neat definitions never cover the entire truth. Two of the four "Classical" composers on our recording, Beethoven and Schubert, are often thought of as the fathers of Romantic music, such is the dramatic and subjective power of their art, while at the beginning of the period Haydn was composing his *Sturm und Drang* — "storm and stress" symphonies, hardly the epitome of correctness and order.

Another way of looking at the concept of Classicism is as a process of stabilising what has been, and will again become, unstable and impetuous; the calm between storms. In the case of Viennese Classicism — the movement, which lasted roughly from 1770 to 1830 — what came before was the decadence of high Baroque and rococo. What came afterwards was Romanticism and its subjective emotionalism.

One of Classical music's enduring triumphs was the establishment of sonata form as a structure which enabled those essentials of any drama, statement, counterstatement, argument and resolution, to be contained in a single piece. Essentially an opposition of key-centres, this form contained within it the seeds of its own instability. The argument, or development section, was an area where the key of the music was unstable. It took only an increased concentration on development (which happens in Beethoven) or the involvement of development within statement (which Mozart already does) to court tonal anarchy. That potential anarchy became outright revolution with Schoenberg's atonal music at the beginning of this century. Even so, sonata form endures, the basics of its elements intact, in the work of many of today's composers.

Another form to crystalise during the period was the concerto. The Baroque concerto was largely a matter of soloists and orchestra taking turns; in the Classical period the relationship became more interdependent, more dramatic. The soloist began to emerge.

Vocal forms also developed. Opera flourished with Haydn and, more significantly, with Mozart. Sacred choral music came closer to opera in aesthetic, while oratorio received a shot in the arm when Haydn influenced by Handel, produced "The Seasons" and "The Creation", just two crowning glories of a long career.

STEPHEN PETTITT



Mozart (1756-1791). Five of his works are on *Classical Times*

Classical Times

Playing time 62 min. 33 sec.

1 HAYDN. The Creation; Chorus: "Awake the Harp". Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus (2:10). **2 MOZART.** *Symphony No 40*, Menuetto; Trio. Prague Chamber Orchestra (3:55). **3 BEETHOVEN.** Symphony No 5. Allegro con brio (excerpt). Boston Symphony Orchestra (4:00). **4 SCHUBERT.** "Trout" quintet in A major. Scherzo: Presto. John O'Conor, piano; James Vandermark, bass. Cleveland Quartet (3:44).

5 HAYDN. Symphony No 31 "Hornsignal", Menuet. Trio. Orchestra of St Luke's (4:57). **6 MOZART.** Piano Concerto No 21. Andante (excerpt). John O'Conor, piano. Scottish Chamber Orchestra (4:40). **7 MOZART.** *The Magic Flute*. Papageno's Aria "Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja". Thomas Allen, baritone. Scottish Chamber Orchestra (2:35). **8 BEETHOVEN.** Symphony No 3 "Eroica". Finale: Allegro molto (excerpt). Cleveland Orchestra (5:29).

9 BEETHOVEN. Piano Concerto No 5 "Emperor". Rondo: Allegro (excerpt) Rudolf Serkin, piano. Boston Symphony Orchestra (3:05). **10 MOZART.** Serenade in G ("Eine kleine Nachtmusik"). Allegro (abridged). Prague Chamber Orchestra (3:29). **11 HAYDN.** Symphony No 100 "Military". Finale: Presto. Orchestra of St Luke's (4:54). **12 MOZART.** Symphony No 25. Menuetto; Trio. Prague Chamber Orchestra (3:34).

13 BEETHOVEN. Piano Sonata No 14. "Moonlight". Adagio sostenuto. John O'Conor, piano (5:46). **14 BEETHOVEN.** Symphony No 6 "Choral". Presto (excerpt). Cleveland Orchestra (3:41). **15 SCHUBERT.** Symphony No.9 in *C* major "The Great". Finale: Allegro vivace (excerpt). Cleveland Orchestra (4:04). **16 SCHUBERT.** "Die Nacht". Robert Shaw Chamber Singers, Robert Mackenzie, piano (3:26).



TODAY, and continuing over the next two weeks, *The Times*, in association with Conifer Records, is offering readers the opportunity to collect four free CDs or cassettes of great classical music on top quality record labels. The recordings cover four periods of music — Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern — and offer an introduction to a music library that anyone would be proud to own. Last week we offered *Baroque Times* (if you missed it, see how to get a copy below).

The recording offered today, *Classical Times*, covers the period from 1750 to 1926 and features the music of four composers — Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert (see left for details of the *Classical Times* recording track listings).

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OXON Tuscan lady seeks gent. 49+ n/s 5'8"+ for sincere friendship enjoys travel. TLC, theatre country life Box 5793.

PRETTY, witty, introverted professional lady, West Country based, (5ft. 5"/6", blond,) Wishes to meet tall, sophisticated, honest & faithful professional man with a sense of humour for loving permanent relationship. Enjoys music (Bach to the Rolling Stones) loves ballet - loathes opera. Likes poetry, literature, comedy (Victoria Wood) cooking & entertaining. Happy in town and country. Disenchanted by local men, so conscious anti-gestion to Brazil, although she'd rather stay here! Interested? Please call Cheryl Brown at Candlebarrowers 071 371 5535.

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LADIES

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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AMERICAN ex-diplomat, active, cultured seeks accomplished Christian widow, youthful 50's, medium height and build for shared future. Retired based will travel. Reply with photo to Box No 5785

AMERICAN Writer 48, 5'7 London based seeks female Tel/Photo ans to Box No 5678

ARTISTIC Berkshire man 37 seeks attractive special n/s independent amusing female B.E. Photo please. Reply Box 5787

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GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE tall dark successful business man would like to hear from attractive women wishing to share travel sport wining and dining. Photo absolutely essential.Box No 5762

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DETACHED (recently) man, 65 (5'11) in Cobridge house W/H seeks lady 55+ to care for and share good things with. Reply & photo please to Box No 5633

DOCTOR, 36, 6' tall, house owner, athletic, interests bands, music, cooking, seeks friendship/ view marriage lady max 30; compassionate, replies, full length photo, treated in strictest conf. Please Reply Box 5762

DYNAMIC (I) professional 27 living W. London seeks stylish fun lady 21+. Dare you write with photo. Box No 5774

EARLY ret. Univ. Teacher, NS, loving, interests &c, walking, languages, theatre, seeks lady companion for active future. South/Abroad. Box No 5803

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GOODLOOKING Man, 40, Graduate, music lover, varied cultural interests, very gentle, sensitive girl for loving companionship London area Box No 5791

HANDSOME Professional male (29) considerate and intelligent loves life and laughter seeks attractive, slim Single Girl to treat and to cherish and adore. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6811

IS the possibility of romance that will have sparkle warmth humour sensitivity with a successful guy born in the forties not what you seek. A photo would be the first step with your letter. Who Knows? Please Reply to Box No 5797

LADY Chatterley - Lincolnshire gamekeeper 43 seeks Lady Game - Where are you? Photo please? Please Reply to Box No 5687

LUXURY American motorphone owner young 60 divorced seeks lady companion for extended travel Europe. 061 231 3811

OXBRIDGE consultant, 56, divorced, 5'10, slim, young looking, romantic, warm. Adores theatre, music, tennis, bed. Seeks definitely attractive, definitely passionate girlfriend, 40-55, for fun, committed, maybe permanent relationship. Ideally London or within 50 miles Watford. Photo a must (returned). Mine for yours. All answered. Please Reply to Box No 5747

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GENTLEMEN

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RESPECTABLE Elderly bachelor (52), London, ludicrously shy, in possession of repellent old beard and other defects, is sufficiently proclaim as to seek friendship of young (younger?) lady. Reply to Box No 5668

SEMI-RETIRED widower fond of the country and travel, seeks widow around 50+, for friendship possibly more. East Anglia. Please include recent photograph and send to Box 5794

SPORTY Cheerful positive educated lady golfer sought by similar handsome gent, 52, for 2wks apr golf hol with friends in Majorca + more. Remainder. Photo pls. Box No 5813

SUCCESSFUL business exec. 50's on regular trips NW from South, invites you to dinner, concert and social occasions. If you are under 50 and interested in meeting up pls write with photo to Box No 5776

GENTLEMEN

SUCCESSFUL, well-spoken Asian, graduate, 32, 5'10, cultured, fit, sporty, n/s seeks slim, stylish, caring, professional female 22-32. Photo please. Box No 5713

TALL dark handsome Oxfordshire chap 28 seeks caring intelligent young lady to wine dine and take skiing.Box No 5772

TALL, sincere, charming guy, 60, needs a tall, educated lady 46 to 55, n/s, for tomorrows life, whatever. W. London / Hants. Please send phone no. Please Reply to Box No 5786

WEST COUNTRY chap decent specimen 34 seeks Le Dolce Vita with attractive imaginative lovely woman preferably 18-34. Photo app. Oh wilderness were Paradise enow!Box No 5789

82 Year old gentleman of independent means recently returned from 6 years abroad 6ft tall non smoker GSOH interests: Architecture, theatre, music, travel, yachting, sports, politics wishes to meet compatible 28-36 year old lady. West London. Thames Valley area. Reply to Box No 5704

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Illumination at the Science Museum

The nightlife at a London museum has made it one of the hottest spots in town ... for the under-12s.

JAMES MORGAN



Sleeping with the stars in the Exploration of Space Gallery during a Science Night. Such is the popularity of the nights that they are fully booked until March

Take 400 children, aged eight to eleven. Place them in a large museum. Bring to the boil (stirring regularly) and simmer for six hours. Wrap each one in a sleeping bag, and allow to marinate overnight. Your children should now be ready to take back home. What have you got? Not a disaster, but a "science night".

Science nights started in America 20 years ago, with the aim of encouraging girls to enjoy science by giving them slumber parties in science museums. The idea has now been brought to Britain by Jenny Davison, the manager of "Science Night" at the Science Museum in London. She believes that her nights, which started eight months ago, are the first in Europe. The museum has played host to nearly 8,000 children since then, and the flow seems endless. "The demand is so great that you almost have to put your children's names down at birth," Mrs Davison says. The present series of nights is fully booked.

It is 6.30pm on a Saturday and filing down Exhibition Road in west London is a gaggle of Scouts, Brownies and other children. All are clutching their sleeping bags.

At the entrance, each child is assigned to a team. Soon, an assortment of "Yellow Stars", "Green Planets" and others are running, screaming and shouting around the lobby, excited by the idea of sharing the night in the ultimate playroom.

The evening is split into three activities — Musical Squares, Shapes and Structures, and Food for Thought. The first is presented by Mike Gluyas, accompanied by his wife, Wendy, half-a-dozen amplifiers, a battery of microphones, a slide-projector, countless tubes, and a pith helmet rimmed with fairy lights. He demonstrates sonic concepts such as frequency, waveforms and even the Doppler effect so graphically that his audience hangs on to his every word (and sound). For a few moments afterwards, the Yellow Stars are eclipsed into silence as they realise that they have actually enjoyed the lecture. But it is not long before they are running, screaming and shouting towards the next activity.

It is the task of "minders" identified by their red T-shirts to shepherd the children around. Most "minders" are museum staff, and all are enthusiastic about the busy schedule. "I like working with children", Marcus Nunez says, "it's great fun just seeing how excited they get." They are helped by parents, who pay a reduce rate in return for supervising the children.

Shapes and Structures is the next port of call, and here the Yellow Stars are taught how to make tetrahedrons with sticks and rubber bands. Within 15 minutes, two 10ft pyramids have grown, and the children now know the strengths of the triangle.

After Food for Thought, in which the children have a stab at making pasta (and a mess), it is time for bed. But before they enter their cocoons to dream among the stars in the Exploration of Space Gallery, they hear ghost stories from Saviour Pirotta, a writer from Malta. As the lights dim, they hear "true" accounts of haunted houses, complete with mysterious voices.

Much of the gaggle settles down quietly as the volunteers patrol the corridors, shushing chatterers.

Dawn breaks rudely, and matted heads poke from sleeping bags. But there is no time to waste, and after a frugal breakfast, the children are ushered into origami and more lectures. The activities cease at 10am, and the crowd is encouraged to visit the shop. The children rush in as though they have just arrived, and the parents wearily reach for their cheque books. Some things never change.

GUY WALTERS

● *Science Nights at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7, are fully booked until March. Information on the next set of nights will be available from February 21. Children £15, adults £10. 071-938 9785.*

Children's events

LONDON

☐ **Flight of Babushca Baboon:** The tale of a baboon who wants to fly to the moon in a hot-air balloon. *Puppet Theatre Barge, Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (071-249 6876). Today and tomorrow at 3pm. Also until March 27. Adults £4.50, children £4.*

☐ **Royal Robes:** Come and view Queen Victoria's tiny slippers, George IV's flamboyant outfits and Queen Elizabeth II's coronation robes. *Kensington Palace State Apartments, Kensington Gardens, W8 (071-937 9561). Today from 9am-4.15pm and tomorrow from 11am-4.15pm. Adults £3.90, children £2.60.*

DORSET

☐ **Dinosaur land:** *Jurassic Park*-type monsters in life-size models. *Coombe Street, Lyme Regis (297 443541). Today and tomorrow from 10am-4pm. Adults £2.50, children £1.75.*

NORTHUMBERLAND

☐ **Art in the Park:** Catchy title for an unusual event aimed at parents and children. Local walk to glean sketching ideas, followed by a workshop on how to work your sketches into wood or linocuts. *Once Brewed National Park Visitor Centre, Military Road, Bardon Mill, Northumberland (0434 605555). Today at 10am. Adult £5, children £3, family ticket (two adults and two children) £10.*

STAFFORDSHIRE

☐ **Donjons and dragons:** (Archaic spelling for dungeons). Find out how local castles defended themselves against the Welsh dragons and other foes. *Tamworth Castle and Museum, Tamworth (0827 63563). Today 10am-4.30am and tomorrow 2pm-4.30pm. Adults £2.90, children £1.05.*

YORKSHIRE

☐ **Family fun day concert:** Percussion extravaganza for all ages. *Colne Valley Leisure Centre, New Street, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield (0484 430808). Tomorrow at 10.30am. Adults £2, children £1, family ticket (two adults and two children) £5.*

SCOTLAND

☐ **Deep Sea World:** Explore the secrets of the deep. *North Queensferry, Edinburgh (0383 411411). Today and tomorrow, 9am-6pm. Adults £4.50, children over four £3, under-fours free.*

JANE BIDDER

Continued from front page: the insiders' stories of their success in the housing market

How the experts fared

PETER TREVNOR



JAMES MORGAN



STEVEN BELL

Former Treasury employee and now the chief economist at the City brokers Morgan Grenfell.

"Shortly after leaving the London School of Economics in 1974, I began working at the Treasury and acquired my first property, a small, three-bedroomed, semi-detached house in Kent, for a little under £12,000," Steven Bell says.

"I remained there for two years, then sold it for just over £13,000 and bought another three-bedroomed house, this time in a terrace at Beckenham, southeast London, a great deal closer to the city, for £16,400."

By 1985, Mr Bell was married with two children and a third on the way. He sold the house for £32,000 and bought a large, six-bedroomed Edwardian house, again in Beckenham, for £55,000. Five years later the Bells sold that home for £187,000.

"Arlene, my wife, helped a great deal with the sale," he says. "She made sure she knew the prices of the competing houses around us and we were happy to drop our price by £5,000 or £10,000 or so to ensure a sale. Our house had been valued at £230,000, which I thought was ridiculous given the state of the market."

Their present home is a five-bedroom house in Dulwich, southeast London. Mr Bell does not wish to reveal the price he paid. It was a dramatic purchase: viewed on a Wednesday, the Bells arranged the mortgage on Thursday and exchanged contracts within ten days.

Apart from one three-week gap when the Bells owned two houses at once, which cost them an extra £75 a day, they have always managed to buy and sell simultaneously.

"I receive a mortgage subsidy from my employer; however, none of my moves have been designed to exploit the subsidy," Mr Bell says. "I have always been interested in the housing market. I hope I will not be moving again for a very long time."

ADRIAN COLES

Adrian Coles is an economist and director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders

"I rented homes in London in five different places after I had finished my postgraduate degree at Sheffield University in 1976," Mr Coles says. "None of them had a rent book, and the conditions in my first flat in Balham, south London, were appalling. I used to have to stand in a bowl in the middle of the room and soap myself with a flannel. It was so cold, I then flung 15 towels over myself."

In the autumn of 1980 he decided to get married — and that is what spurred him on to buy.

"I had started working at the Council of Mortgage Lenders in December 1979. It gave a mortgage subsidy to its employees, who could borrow up to £25,000 at 5 per cent. That was at a time when mortgage rates were about 15 per cent and £25,000 was a significant sum, so it was obviously very valuable. We bought a two-bedroom semi, a leasehold house in Surbiton, Surrey, for £27,500, with a £25,000 mortgage from the Abbey National. We later bought the freehold."

By August 1986, with a second child on the way, the Coles decided it was time to move. They sold for £56,000 and bought a larger semi in Surbiton for £85,000, with a £47,000 mortgage.

The family's third move, in October 1992, was not so straightforward. "We first had to sell our home. We put the house on the market in 1991, where it stayed for much of the year.

"We got fed up with trying to sell and the stress of people coming round to look at the house, so we took it off the market that winter, and put it back on again the following spring. We sold it almost immediately, for £112,000. This was more than we had paid, but had we sold in the spring of 1988 or early 1989, the value of the house would have been about £135,000.

"I think we did quite well because we bought at the bottom of the market. Again we wanted more space. This time we bought a four-bedroom detached home in Surbiton for £170,000.

"I suppose, on balance, I did not take advantage of my special knowledge of the market. All through that period my job was to read the market, but personal circumstances really determined our moves," says Mr Coles.



Above: Steven Bell outside the latest family home at Dulwich, southeast London — "I hope I will not be moving again for a very long time."

Left: Adrian Coles with his wife Marion, son David and daughter Verity — "On balance, I did not take advantage of my special knowledge of the market."

Right: John and Louise Hunter with their two young sons at their home in Wandsworth, south London — "We are planning to buy a family home with a nice garden. We want to spend about £300,000."

JOHN HUNTER

John Hunter is a developer. His transformation of a Victorian house in southwest London recently sold for close to £9 million.

While serving as a captain in the 17th/21st Lancers, Mr Hunter bought his first property for £28,000, in 1982, with a £22,000 mortgage.

"It was a one-bedroom flat in Pimlico, central London, which I thought was coming up in the world, and I rented it out for three years while I was still in army accommodation. The rent paid the mortgage," he says.

In 1985, he moved into the flat and stayed there until 1986, when he sold it for £82,000 and traded up to a two-bedroom flat, this time in Battersea, southwest London. Again this was an area which he felt was "coming up in the world".

"My second flat cost £78,000. I got a mortgage for £35,000. I concentrated hard on buying in the right location. This time the flat was on Prince of Wales Drive, close to Chelsea Bridge."

In 1991, while still living in the flat, Mr Hunter married.

"We decided to let the flat and move into another rented property while we looked for the perfect house. We wanted to keep the flat as a long-term investment, with a view to future school fees.

"My family and I are renting a house in Wandsworth for about £1,500 a month, and we only plan to stay for six months. We are planning to buy a family home with a nice garden for myself and my wife and our two children. We want to spend about £300,000 and are looking in Wandsworth."

THESE seem to be the success stories of the housing market but, as the experts themselves admit, the profit figures may not be as dramatic as they first appear. A portfolio of stocks and shares would have done as well, if not better.

On the other hand, the experts did not have to pay tax on gains on their principal private residences, and were able to take advantage of tax relief on mortgages. Above all they have enjoyed investment which are also their homes.

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FULHAM Chelsea 2 bed upper maisonette. 19' reception, fitted kitchen & bathrm. Gas ch. carpets. Close tube £155,000 Viscount 071 736 9822

HAMILTON TERRACE NW8 Newly refurbished 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 recpt + balcony New 99 yr lease £149,950 sole agents Daniel Smith 071 483 2972.

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MAIDA VALE W9 - Semi detached house. 5 bed, 2 recpt, 3 Baths. 3 - bedroomed tourist flat. Total refurbishment £295,000 for 66 yr lease. Miller at Daniel Smith 071 483 2972.

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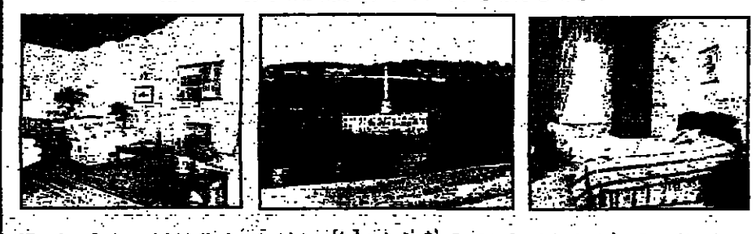
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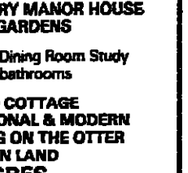
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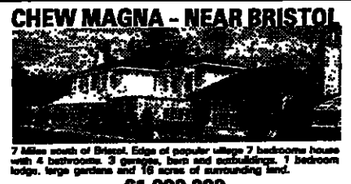
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...ous Keukenhof is celebrating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the tulip in Holland

...e dazzled by Dutch flowers

Garden lovers come every spring in their thousands on a pilgrimage to this mecca of bulbs in bloom. Their senses dulled by a long monochromatic winter, they push through the gates of Keukenhof, in Holland, and are instantly assaulted by a dazzling display of scent and brilliant colour, laid out across 70 acres with meticulous and military precision by 91 Dutch bulb growers, each one with his own patch.

Keukenhof is a spectacle, a theatrical bulb extravaganza, redesigned every year, from every blade of its grass to every bulb. The festival was started 45 years ago by a group of prominent bulb growers to give the public the chance to see the bulbs growing in more or less natural settings. For this they chose the site of the enormous 15th-century kitchen *(keuken)* garden *(hof)* belonging to the castle of Countess Jacoba van Beieren, who numbered a Duke of Gloucester among her three husbands. Not only did this "kitchen garden" provide the cooks with vegetables and herbs, but the countess and her entourage also hunted over the area.

Refashioned 150 years ago into a romantic English landscape park by Holland's eminent landscape architect, J. D. Zocher the younger, and situated in the heart of the bulb district, it provided an ideal location. Using water and trees, Zocher created a tranquil atmosphere, which survives. His harmonies of form and colour, however, have not — and it is incongruous to find the familiar spring-flowering shrubs and trees underplanted with blazing colours.

The gardens are open daily from March 24 to May 23. The tulips are in bloom continuously, the daffodils from the beginning to the end of April, and the hyacinths for two weeks from the middle of April. Downpours and cold springs may spoil or stall the outside displays, but under the protection of 7,000 sq m of glass is a huge indoor spring garden lasting the whole eight or nine weeks and housing 500 varieties. There is a greenhouse devoted to the Royal Dutch amaryllis, and ten indoor flower shows. For ten days in April, for example, 80,000 tulips (450 varieties) will be on show, including rare and new ones.



Tulips in theatrical display

Outside, are theme gardens under headings such as "Scene", "Abstract", "Colour", "Style", "Renaissance", "Border", "Rockery-Shadow-Water"; flower arranging lessons; and exhibitions, with seven growers taking orders and dispensing advice.

As soon as Keukenhof closes its doors to the public, all six million bulbs are removed, 50 per cent by hand, the rest mechanically. Work begins on new designs as much for the health of the soil, to thwart any disease that may be lurking, as for the beguilement of the public. Where there was grass one year, there will be bulbs the next.

The first of the bulbs is planted in September, and all six million must be in place before the first frosts in December. To ensure continuity of flowering, the gardeners plant in layers — a technique they call "floor planting", whereby a late-flowering tulip is planted deep down first, above it an early-flowering tulip, and a crocus near the surface so that the blooms come out one after another in quick succession.

The tulip is celebrating 400 years on Dutch soil. It was introduced from Constantinople by the Dutch botanist Carolous Clusius (hence *T. clusiana*), who came from nearby Leiden. The plant apparently caused such a stir when the first flowers bloomed that tulip-mania ensued. Enthusiasts were prepared to pay the price of a prestigious canal house in Amsterdam to acquire a few bulbs.

Although the tulip originates in Mediterranean climes, the sandy, fast-draining soil at the foot of the Dutch dunes into which peat has been incorporated makes the perfect growing medium for the bulb fields. Bulbs can be grown in any soil with good drainage.

The fields beside roads leading to the festival provide some fine displays of tulips. The growers who work these fields are in the business of selling bulbs, not flowers, and so, just before the flower is fully out, they cut off the heads, leaving huge, colourful mounds of flower heads at the end of tulip rows. For the rest of us, cutting before tulips are fully out will help to ensure healthy bulbs next season, and provide an excellent cut flower display indoors.

VIVIAN RUSSELL

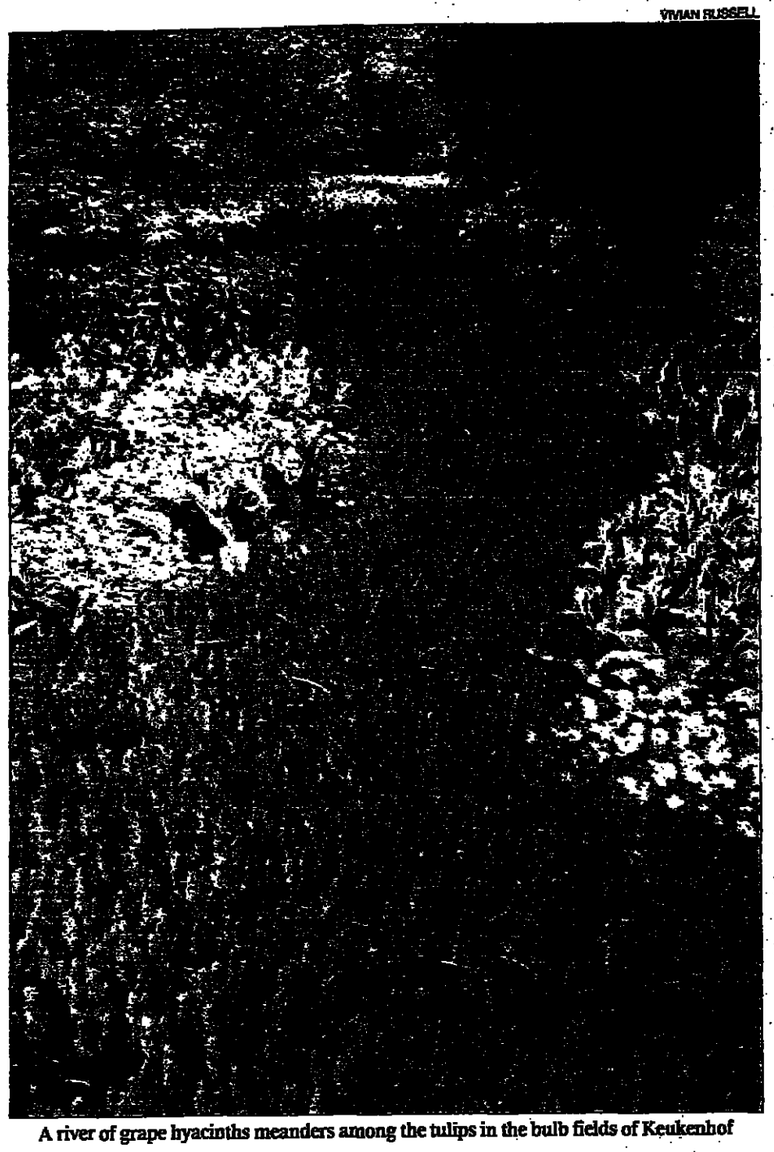
The tulip trail

☐ **Keukenhof**: open between March 24 and May 23, 8am to 7.30pm (ticket sales until 6pm). PO Box 66 2160 AB Lisse, Holland (010 31 2521 19034).

☐ Growers from Keukenhof will mount a tulip display at the **International Spring Garden Fair**, at Olympia, March 31-April 4 (071-373 8141)

☐ **Travel notes**: Travelscene Bulbfields (081-427 4445) offers three nights, half board (three-star hotel) from £225.

VIVIAN RUSSELL



A river of grape hyacinths meanders among the tulips in the bulb fields of Keukenhof

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Keep overwintering geraniums (pelargoniums) dry and well ventilated.*
- *Prune apple and pear trees, and remove crossing or dead growth from fruit bushes.*
- *Prepare seedbeds and cover them with a floating cloche or standard cloches, two to four weeks before sowing.*
- *Clean seed trays and pots ready for use.*
- *Sow broad beans in seed trays in the greenhouse in cold areas; in the ground (with cloche protection) in milder regions.*

SARAH HOGG

Head of the Prime Minister's policy unit



Where would you go?
Lincolnshire.

How would you get there?
By InterCity.

Where would you stay?
At our home, because we don't get there often enough. We are imports to Lincolnshire — my husband's constituency is Grantham; but we have put down deep roots.

Who would be your perfect companions?
My husband, Douglas, lots of friends, our two grown-up children (and their friends), the dog (but not his friends) and the cats.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
My djellabah, a long, warm woollen gown. Douglas brought one for each of us back from Lebanon.

What medicines would accompany you?
My home-made damson gin, which is very therapeutic after a long walk.

What would you have to eat?
Bread and beef from the butcher in Saxilby, figs and plums from the garden.

What would you have to drink?
Some good red wine.

Which books would you read?
Three old favourites: *Memoirs of Madame La Tour du Pin*, who lived through the French Revolution; Edmund Crispin's *Glimpses of the Moon*; and Anya Seton's *Katherine*, an historical novel about John of Gaunt's mistress, who lived in our house.

What music would you listen to?
Mozart from choice, plus whatever our children think is good for us.

What would you watch on television?
The Wartime Kitchen and Garden (all that digging!) and *The Borrowers*. Douglas never misses the news.

Would you play any games or sport?
I'd play bridge with my daughter and tennis with my son, and I'd lose at both.

What luxury would you have?
Centrally-heated gumboots.

What piece of art would you like to look at?
Turner's *Frosty Morning* from the Tate Gallery, which would be lovely to look at in front of a warm fire.

Who would be your least welcome guests?
Dead rabbits brought in by the cats. More unwelcome still, half-dead rabbits.

Which newspapers would you read?
Absolutely none — too many reminders of work but lots of periodicals.

What three things would you leave behind?
Douglas's ministerial red box of papers [Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs] and my official black box of papers, and the fax machine.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Walk with Douglas in the Wolds. 2. Dig in the garden, which I find very satisfying. 3. Above all, chat.

Who would you send a postcard to?
My mum.

What souvenir would you bring back?
Flowers from the garden to brighten our London home.

What would you like to find when you got home?
Nothing at all on the answering machine.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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FILMS

NEW RELEASES

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE (U): Scorsese's spellbinding, heartfelt version of Edith Wharton's novel about stifled love in old New York. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Winona Ryder. Odeon Leicester Sq (0426 915683)

DECADENCE (18): Steven Berkoff's play about 1980s greed takes wearisome cinema. Berkoff directs, and co-stars with Joan Collins. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031)

MRS DOUBTFIRE (12): Divorced dad gets hired as the family's housekeeper. Indulgent, rude and funny vehicle for Robin Williams. With Sally Field and Pierce Brosnan. Director, Chris Columbus. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 9772) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)



Superb: Daniel Day-Lewis in *The Age of Innocence*

CURRENT

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG): A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston; director, Barry Sonnenfeld. **Empire** (0800 888911) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

ALADDIN (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams' Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements. **MGMs: Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

CARLITO'S WAY (18): Can Al Pacino's gangster go straight? Lively ethnic-flavoured drama from Brian De Palma, with Sean Penn and Penelope Ann Miller. **Empire** (0800 888911) **MGMs Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

DEMOLITION MAN (15): Sylvester Stallone versus Wesley Snipes in 21st century L.A. Overblown action romp with satirical touches. Director, Marco Brambilla. **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE (15): Chen Kaige's Cannes prizewinner: a bumper bundle of dazzling visuals, Peking Opera, and Chinese history. With Leslie Cheung and Gong Li. **Chelsea Cinema** (071-351 3742) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/Hill** (071-435 3566)

THE FUGITIVE (12): 1960s television series roars back to life with Harrison Ford; director, Andrew Davis. **Warner** (071-437 4343)

HEAVEN AND EARTH (15): A Vietnam peasant girl's war experiences, clumsily translated by Oliver Stone. With Hiep Thi Le and Tommy Lee Jones. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Minema** (071-285 4225) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3303) **Warner** (071-439 4343)

THE HOUR OF THE PIG (15): Medieval romp with serious twinges. Ideal for BBC2. With Colin Firth, Nicol Williamson; director, Leslie Megahey. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057) **Warner** (071-439 4343)

MALICE (15): Alec Baldwin's hot-shot doctor shatters Nicole Kidman and Bill Pullman's domestic bliss. Shallow, serpentine and stupefying thriller; director, Harold Becker. **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

MANHATTAN MURDER MYSTERY (PG): Woody Allen and Diane Keaton turn amateur sleuths. Benign, frivolous comedy with Alan Alda and Anjelica Huston. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **Camden Gate** (071-727 4043) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0426-915 353) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520)

MENACE II SOCIETY (18): Drugs, sex and relentless violence in Los Angeles' black ghetto. Unedifying directing debut by 20-year-old twins, Allen and Albert Hughes. **Electric** (071-792 2020) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th-century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

PROVIDENCE (15): Alain Resnais's elegant enigma of 1977, with John Gielgud as the dying writer weaving his family (Dirk Bogarde and others) into his fiction. **MGM Swiss Centre** (071-439 4470)

STRANGER THAN PARADISE (15): Laconic tale of the American dream. Jim Jarmusch's first feature, still bracing today. With John Lurie, Eszter Balint. **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

TOMBSTONE (15): Unremarkable return to the OK Corral, with Kurt Russell (Wyatt Earp) and Val Kilmer (Doc Holliday). George P. Cosmatos directs. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426-914 501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THEATRE

LONDON

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY: Felicity Kendal plays a harassed wife, Griff Rhys Jones a frantic bachelor, in Peter Hall's most enjoyable production of Feydeau's *Le Dindon*. **Globe**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

ANORAK OF FIRE: Return of Stephen Dinsdale's hilarious but also touching account of a trainspotter's obsession. **Arts**, Great Newport St, WC2 (071-836 2132). Tues-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 6pm.

CABARET000025 Horrocks (Sally Bowles) and Alan Cumming, as the MC, dance with death in the last days before Hitler. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham St, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE CUT: Gripping whodunit, set in a coal mine. Who killed whom and for what? **Bush**, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

DEAD FUNNY: Terry Johnson sets his latest dark comedy in the last days of Benny Hill. Zoë Wanamaker, Niall Buggy and David Haig in a fine cast. **Hampstead**, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews, 8pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

FATZER MATERIAL: Fragments of Brecht circa 1930 about five army deserters; assembled by Marc von Henning, known for his promotion of plays by Heiner Muller. **Gate**, Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Last week.

GORMENGHAST: Another welcome return for the David Glass Ensemble and their strikingly staged version of the Mervyn Peake novel. **Lyric**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Feb 19.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR: Gogol's evergreen satire transposed to Ulster before the First World War. Dan Gordon and Sylvester McCoy play the down-and-outs mistaken for officials. **Tricycle**, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Previews Tues and Wed, 8pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat 4pm, Sun, 5pm and Mar 2, 2pm. Until Mar 6.

EDDIE IZZARD: The excellent man is back for another solo season of comedy and sharp good sense. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Previews from Mon, 8pm. Opens Thurs, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Mar 19.



Zoë Wanamaker stars in the comedy *Dead Funny*

REGIONAL

GUILDFORD: Penelope Keith plays Twenties novelist Elinor Glyn, in Hollywood and confronted with Clara Bow in Ken Hoare's new play, *Glyn and "It"*. **Yvonne Arnaud**, Millbrook (0483 60191). Opens Tues, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Until Feb 12.

MANCHESTER: Simon Burke's Mobil Prizewinner, *The Lodger*, is described as "brutal, tender and blackly comic". The probable message is: don't let your spare room to an enigmatic young woman. **Royal Exchange**, St Ann's Square (061 833 9833). Preview Wed, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Until Feb 26.

SCARBOROUGH: Alan Ayckbourn's latest, *Communicating Doors*, set in a hotel where doors open into another dimension. **Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round**, Valley Bridge Parade (0723 370541). Previews, 7.30pm. Opens Wed, 7.30pm. Tues-Sat, 7.30pm.

SOUTHAMPTON: Nicolas Kent's highly praised production of *Playboy of the West Indies*, Mustapha Matura's reworking of Synge, comes here for a month. Cyril Nri plays the son rumoured to have topped his dad. **Nuffield**, University Road, Southampton (0703 671771). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 8, 7.30pm. Until Feb 26.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 18

LIMACEOUS

(a) Pertaining to slugs or snails, snail-like, also, in modern use, pertaining to the genus *Limax* of slugs, from the Latin *limax* a slug or snail.

MAMMIFEROUS

(c) Having breasts. Strictly speaking, all mammals, whether male or female, but, needless to say, most commonly applied in relation to the latter. *Like stentoppyous*, a word not likely to be readily grasped by the unprepared listener. From the Latin *mamma* a breast + *ferre* to bear or carry: "None of the associated mammiferous remains belong to species which now exist."

SCIOLISM

(c) Pretentious superficiality of knowledge, the character or qualities of a *sciolist*, a conceited smatterer, from the late Latin *sciolus* a *journo*, diminutive of *scius* knowing, *scire* to know: "The *sciolus* a journo, diminutive of *scius* knowing, *scire* to know: "The tendency to shallow and conceited sciolism, *engendered* by hearing popular lectures on all manner of subjects."

SAPID

(c) Of food, readily perceptible to the organs of taste, having a decided taste or flavour, palatable, hence grateful to the mind or mental taste, from the Latin *sapidus* savoury, *sapere* to have a taste, hence *sapient* wise.



Co-stars Sally Field and Robin Williams assess their wardrobes in Chris Columbus's *Mrs Doubtfire* (see Films)

KIT AND THE WIDOW: JANUARY SALE: Suave and stinging, the musical satirists pass comment on the social scene with their familiar skill **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Tues-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm, Sun, 7.30pm.

MEDEA. Diana Rigg in Euripides's tragedy of a woman's revenge, directed by Jonathan Kent. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mat Sat, 5.30pm.

OLEANNA: Denis Lawson and Michelle Fairley have taken over the leads in Mamet's tale of power and politics. **Duke of York's**, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

SCHIPPEL, THE PLUMBER: Revival of Jeremy Sams's joyous production of Sternheim: a snobbish vocal quartet is obliged to cross class barriers to recruit a vital tenor. James Saxon leads the almost unchanged cast. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat, 2pm. Until Feb 26.

SEPTEMBER TIDE: Daphne du Maurier's drama of inappropriate passion with Susannah York. **Comedy**, Panton St, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

THE SKRIKER: Caryl Churchill's latest: an ancient shape-shifter (Kathryn Hunter) bursts out of the Underworld and pursues two young girls. Strange, strong stuff. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; mat today, 2pm.

SWEENEY TODD: Declan Donnellan's superb staging of Sondheim's subtle, savage musical. Starring Denis Quilley and Julia McKenzie. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm; mats today and Wed, 2pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: New Michael Hastings drama, set in 1940 among a group of aristocrats nervously awaiting Hitler's invasion. Philip Voss and Toby Stephens head an excellent cast. **Pit**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Mark Elder conducts the massed choral, orchestral and solo vocal forces required to perform Mahler's overwhelming Symphony No 8, the "Symphony of a Thousand". Among the soloists are sopranos Deborah Riedl and Amanda Roocroft; contraltos Anne-Marie Owens and Catherine Wyn-Rogers; tenor John Mitchinson; baritone Jason Howard and bass Michael Druiett. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333), Thurs, 7.30pm.

NORTHERN LIGHTS: A month-long festival celebrating the thriving musical culture of Manchester and involving most of the city's professional and student ensembles begins with a concert by the Hallé Orchestra (Free Trade Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm) in which Oliver Knussen conducts his own *Whitman Settings*, together with music by Walton, Benjamin and Stravinsky. Friday sees two concerts by students of the Royal Northern College of Music: a lunchtime recital by the RNCM Wind Ensemble, to be broadcast live on Radio 3 and including works by Alexander Goehr, Simon Holt and John McCabe (Studio 7 Concert Hall, Fri, 1.05pm); and an evening concert of music by Bartók, Strauss, and Maxwell Davies, given by the RNCM Symphony Orchestra under Paul Daniel (Royal Northern College of Music, Fri, 7.30pm). **Box Office Information:** Hallé Orchestra (061-834 1712); RNCM (061-273 4504); Studio 7 Concert Hall (061-200 2001).

LONDON NEW MUSIC: Three days of challenging and wide-ranging entertainment mark the return of the innovative ensemble, London New Music. In the course of four concerts, eight composers — among them Irishman Gerald Barry and Germans Dieter Schnebel and Wolfgang von Schweinitz — are each represented by 30 minutes of more or less radically experimental music. Videos by contemporary artists will be shown in the concert intervals. After next Saturday afternoon's concert there will be an opportunity to talk to some of the composers and performers. **Lilian Baylis Theatre**, Arlington Way, London EC1. Tickets from Sadler's Wells Box Office (071-278 8916). Tues, Wed, 7.45pm; next Sat, 3.30pm, 7.45pm

OPERA

L'ELISIR D'AMORE: In his first production for Scottish Opera, Giles Havergal, artistic director of Glasgow's Citizens' Theatre, directs this new staging of Donizetti's delightful comedy. In a promising young cast, Simon Keenlyside sings Belcore; Paul Charles Clarke, Nemorino; Cheryl Barker, Adina. Marco Guidarini conducts. **Theatre Royal**, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), Tues, Thurs, 7.15pm.

DER ROSENKAVALIER: Jonathan Miller brings his usually sure touch to bear on Strauss's bittersweet masterpiece in the first new Coliseum staging of the opera in almost 20 years. In an outstanding cast, Anne Evans sings the Feldmarschallin, John Tomlinson, Ochs; Sally Burgess, Octavian; and Rosemary Joshua, Sophie. The young Russian conductor, Yakov Kreizberg, highly acclaimed on his previous British appearances at Glyndebourne and at the Proms, makes his ENO debut in the pit. **Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Wed, 6.30pm.

ROCK

D:REAM: A tour from the dance band who have reached the top of the charts with their "Things Can Only Get Better" single. **Leeds**, Metropolitan University (0532 442999), Wed, 8pm. **Coventry**, University of Warwick (0203 524524), Thurs, 8pm.

KENNY G: The Seattle-born saxophonist offers peaceful Stateside instrumentals. **Manchester**, Apollo (061-242 2560), tomorrow, 7pm. **London**, Albert Hall (071-589 8212), Mon, Tues and Wed, 6.45pm.

BRONTE BROTHERS. This melodic British band successfully fuse folk, pop and African rhythms. **London**, Mean Fiddler (071-284 2200), today, 8pm. **Bristol**, Fleece and Firkin (0272 277150), Mon, 7.30pm. **Portsmouth**, Wedgewood Room (0705 863911), Tues, 8pm. **Derby**, Wheelhouse (0332 381169), Wed, 8pm. **Loughborough**, University (info: 0509 266600), Thurs, 8pm. **Leeds**, Duchess of York (info: 0532 453929), Fri, 7.30pm

JAZZ

ARCHIE SHEPP QUARTET The great Sixties avant-garde saxophonist now plays a more varied repertoire including rough-edged bop, funky vocals and jazz standards **Dingwalls**, London NW1 (071-267 1999), Tues-Thurs, 9pm.

MIKE WESTBROOK TRIO The composer and pianist appears with wife Kate, singing, and Chris Biscoe on saxophone. Also performing is the clarinet-led Peter Whyman Trio **Jazz Cafe**, London NW1 (071-916 6000), tomorrow, 7pm.

DANCE

CANDOCO: Two contrasting choreographers have made work for Candoco, a company of eight dancers, three of whom use wheelchairs. Siobhan Davies explores the purity of simple movement, while Emilyn Claid offers a more theatrical work "which confronts stereotyping by presenting dynamic conflicts". **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) Fri, next Sat, 7.45pm.

NEW MOVES: Glasgow's festival of European dance highlights new choreography from Portugal. Among British premieres are Joana Providencia's *Pequenas Mortes*, "a series of snapshots of life", and the grand theatrics of Francisco Camacho **Tron**, 68 Trongate, Glasgow (041 552 3748) Tues-Fri, 7.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

SANDRA BLOW Renewing, perhaps, the tradition of the old Diploma Galleries which they replaced, the Sackler Galleries of the Royal Academy are staging their first tribute to one of the Academy's own. Sandra Blow was for some time the RA of the leading "token" abstractionists. Now that abstraction is much more acceptable in academic circles, she continues to paint with unabated energy and individuality. The show charts her course from 1959 right up to date **Royal Academy of Arts** Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438) Daily 10am-6pm, opens Thurs to Mar 3.

NDEBELE BEADWORK: Now that South Africa House is no longer embattled, art exhibitions will no doubt become a regular feature of its programme. The Ndebele are one of the smaller tribes in South Africa, but fiercely retentive of their traditional language and styles of art. Their characteristic beaded aprons are one of Africa's best-known art forms and are still amazing in the brilliance and variety of their abstract inventions. **South Africa House**, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-930 4488). Mon-Fri, 10am-midday and 2-4pm, opens Mon to Feb 11.

HOLBEIN AND THE COURT OF HENRY VIII: As this small but spectacular show demonstrates, Holbein was one of the finest draughtsmen ever and had extraordinary penetration of human character **National Portrait Gallery**, St Mamn's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun, midday-6pm, until Apr 17.

ART OF THE ANCIENT WORLD Over the past 45 years George Ortiz has amassed probably the finest collection of antiquities in private hands today. Its central interest is in ancient Greek art but it is also rich in art of the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East, and includes a few outstanding examples from Africa and Oceania. Recently shown in Moscow and St Petersburg as part of an exchange which brought Russian treasures West for the first time. **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily 10am-6pm, until Apr 6.

CLAUDE — THE POETIC LANDSCAPE Universally admired though Claude Lorrain's landscapes have been, few of them are "pure" landscapes, as in the landscapes-with-figures the figures nearly always point a moral or adorn a tale. This new exhibition, of 28 paintings and more than 50 drawings, examines the importance of the classical and biblical stories behind these paintings.. **National Gallery** Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3526). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun, 2-6pm, until Apr 10.

FABERGE — IMPERIAL JEWELLER This comprehensive show covers the whole career of the Russian jeweller from the 1870s up to the Revolution in 1917 **Victoria & Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until Apr 10.

THE UNKNOWN MODIGLIANI: Between 1906 and 1914, Modigliani's doctor and close friend Paul Alexandre saved every last fragment of preparatory drawing for his important paintings and sculptures of the time. Most of the collection has never been publicly exhibited before **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438), daily, 10am-6pm, until Apr 4.

REGIONAL

MASTERPIECES FROM YORKSHIRE HOUSES The country houses of Yorkshire contain many little-known treasures, and the haul for this loan exhibition includes many paintings that have never been publicly exhibited before, including a handful of important new discoveries and identifications. The artists are mostly British portraitists like Gainsborough and Reynolds, or tastes acquired on the Grand Tour, including Canaletto and Batoni. There are also some sculptures. **York City Art Gallery**, Exhibition Square, York (0904 623839). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm (last admission 4.30pm), today until Mar 20.

WILLIAM WILSON Between the wars Wilson (1905-72) was widely regarded as Scotland's most important printmaker, as well as being one of the leading artists of stained glass throughout Britain. His work in all media is richly coloured, faintly Expressionist in style. This show includes many of his fine watercolours, as well as etchings and examples of his work in glass. **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**, Belford Road, Edinburgh (031-556 8921) Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, opens Wed to Apr 17.

NEW VIDEOS

BODY SNATCHERS (Warner, 15) A video release only for Abel Ferrara's strident remake of the classic tale about alien infestation, *relocated to an army base setting*. Humourless, monotonously staged, but with powerful moments. With Meg Tilly, Gabrielle Anwar. 1993

CZECH CINEMA (Connoisseur, 15) Four tales from the 1960s heyday of the Czech New Wave: Milos Forman's funny-sad *A Blonde in Love* (his first international success), Jiri Menzel's wry comedy of sexual initiation *Closely Observed Trains*, Jan Kadar and Elmar Klos's conventional but moving *The Shop on the High Street*, and Vera Chytilova's manic feminist comedy *Daisies*

VIGIL (Arthouse, 15) New Zealander Vincent Ward's astonishing debut film, with a plot suggesting *Cold Comfort Farm* and beautiful images carved from mud, wrecked machinery and wooden shacks. 1984

BOOKINGS

ARIODANTE. Handel's heroic masterpiece re-enters the opera world this spring from Welsh National Opera after last year's ovations at ENO. It is a heady brew of music of extraordinary emotional power, well-integrated dance sequences and a setting which, for the most part, looks gorgeous. Marc Minkowski conducts Della Jones in the title role, Alwyn Mellor as Ginevra and Felicity Palmer as Polinesso. Produced by David Alden **Cardiff**, New Theatre (0222 394844), Feb 24, 26, **Birmingham**, Hippodrome (021-622 7486), Mar 18, **Southampton**, Mayflower (0703 229771), Apr 14; **Bristol**, Hippodrome (0272 299444), Apr 21.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera:** Gwen Hughes, **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown, **Bookings:** Kris Anderson

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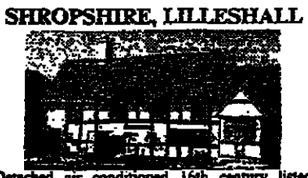
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Golden Russian meets the silver rose

They're all talking about Yakov Kreizberg, the young Russian conductor. **Hilary Finch** met him before his ENO debut

English National Opera has the Soviet customs police to thank for the presence in its pit of one of Europe's most sought-after young conductors, for the new Jonathan Miller production of *Der Rosenkavalier* which opens at the Coliseum on Wednesday.

Yakov Kreizberg was a composer from Leningrad, many of whose works had already been performed before he emigrated to the United States in 1976 at the age of 16. "When I was going through customs, they told me that anything handwritten had to be left behind. That meant all my compositions. It was a big trauma for me, and I stopped writing music altogether."

But Kreizberg already had the invisible, and still more precious, possession of a year's worth of conducting lessons at the Leningrad Conservatoire under his belt. And his elder brother, who had emigrated two years ahead of him, just happened to be Semyon Bychkov, now music director of the Orchestre de Paris.

Compared with the chubby-faced Bychkov, Kreizberg has the lean and hungry look of an etching by Chagall. ("Yes, yes, I am always *massively* hungry!" he shouts, tucking into a plateful of marinaded herring . . .) And he takes his name from his maternal great-grandfather, Yakov Kreizberg, opera conductor of Odessa. The decision to take up the baton was hardly a difficult one to make.

Sixteen years later, in 1992, young Kreizberg made his debut at the age of 32 with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, and at Glyndebourne conducting *Jenufa*. "One of the most sensational debuts in living memory," yelled one critic. "He lit up the score like sun on a fountain," purled another. "We must hear more of this prodigiously gifted musician," decreed Rodney Milnes. And we did.

At last summer's Proms, Kreizberg conducted a revelatory performance of Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, stern and searing in its passionate discipline. He found he had a rather different view of the work from his players and, he suspects, from most of us in the audience too. "The way Tchaikovsky is played in the West seems to me to be a very sentimental version of what I know the composer to be. The music is romantic, sensitive, expressive, yes. But when things are overdone — and they nearly always are — then it completely destroys the clear structures of this music."

Kreizberg's musicianship is one of those instantly recognisable compounds: a fusion of old-style, intensive Russian schooling and the thorough, German-based theoretical training provided by what many musicians think of as New York's best, the Mannes College of Music.

Add to that the experience of three summer schools under the personal tuition of Leonard Bernstein, and the result is a conductor who surprised even himself by landing the post of general music director of the Krefeld Opera at the age of 28, and music-director elect of the Komische Oper Berlin six years later.

Kreizberg takes up that post, in harness with the great stage director Harry Kupfer this August. There his task will be to make music an equal partner with the stage in a house long dominated by a dramatic tradition stretching back to Felsenstein. He relishes the prospect. This is, after all, one of the few remaining houses in the world where he can still work with an ensemble of singers which knows little of the volatilities of the international star system and where he can enjoy as many as 12 orchestral rehearsals per opera.

At the Coliseum, for *Der Rosenkavalier*, he will have just three. "It is a nightmare. The orchestra is superb — and they read far better than German players. They have to. But it's all the more maddening that we just don't have time to work on detail. Mind you, they're on the edge of their chairs. It's so exciting. I can feel the will to overcome the lack of time. I know they'll deliver.

"And they're just made for Strauss. I learnt more about Strauss from Bernstein than from anyone else. Bernstein himself, of course, learnt from Fritz Reiner, who was Strauss's assistant. In fact it was Strauss's writing for orchestra, in particular the tone-poem *Don Juan*, that really made me want to conduct in the first place."

Bernstein was present at all Kreizberg's rehearsals for *Don Juan* in Los Angeles when he was just 20. "He took out his book and made notes of every detail to which I should pay attention. And I still have that piece of paper in my *Don Juan* score today.

"*Rosenkavalier* is something I've always dreamt of. It's very Viennese: just like the place, very beautiful on the surface, and very problematical, very corrupt inside. That's the challenge. And your English singers! I *love* them. I just never realised — forgive my ignorance — there is so much great vocal talent in this country. And they're not going to Germany, like all the American singers do. I just can't understand it."

● Der Rosenkavalier *opens at the Coliseum (071-836 3161) on Wednesday*


DES JENSON

Kreizberg: Strauss's music was what inspired him to conduct

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** on the first night of Caryl Churchill's new play at the National

Things that go bump in the night

DONALD COOPER



Kathryn Hunter as the Skriker — but why introduce bogles, beasties and other mythic monsters into contemporary London, when it already seems amply populated with their human equivalents?

Black Annis, Spriggan, Rawhead-and-Bloodybones, Thrumpins, Black Dog, Kelpie, Nellie Longarms, and Yallery Brown, a being "so evil it is dangerous to earn even his gratitude". The names and job-descriptions might have come from some tripartite collaboration between Tolkein, Blake and Dr Seuss. And why not? Whatever the limitations of Caryl Churchill's play, and the rather more obvious ones of Les Waters's production, the National can never have boasted a cast-list likelier to arrest the pre-curtain browser.

Churchill is the most imaginatively adventurous of our dramatists. Remember *her Cloud Nine, with all those men playing* women and women men? Or the dinner party in *Top Girls*, whose guests included Pope Joan, a courtesan from imperial Japan, and a 19th-century explorer called Isabella Bird? Or the dance and dionysiac revelry she injected into the naturalism of *A Mouthful of Birds?* We shouldn't be too surprised if her *Skriker* has two girls rubbing shoulders, or at least the tops of their heads, with an antique spectre on stilts like crooked branches. From her, that incongruous image comes as naturally as unhappy families from Ayckbourn or ineffective politicians from Hare.

It is however reasonable to ask why she has elected to introduce bogles, beasties and other mythic monsters into contemporary London, when it already seems amply populated with their human equivalents. That is a question that hangs in the Cottesloe air, never quite answered, from *the moment Kathryn Hunter slithers* onstage in a squat, spidery tangle of arms, legs and black wings, and proceeds to babble out a ten-minute monologue full of puns, rhymes and weird Joycean word-associations. "I've drained, rained, sprained ankles and uncles, aunts and answers, father and nearer", to pluck an example from later in the evening.

The Skriker
Cottesloe

She is the Skriker, "a shapeshifter and death portent, ancient and damaged", and somewhat embittered by our disbelieving century's failure to leave cream for fairies in what, characteristically, she calls "a sorcerer's apprentice". For reasons that remain worryingly unclear, she has attached herself to very ordinary young *women: Sandy McDade's Josie, who is in a* mental hospital after killing her baby, and Jacqueline Defferary's Lily, who gives birth during the play. One she lures briefly into the underworld and the other is tricked into paying a much longer visit there, each time after shapeshifting galore. That gives Hunter plenty of opportunities to display her bravura skills. The winged spider variously becomes a paranoid bagwoman, a sugar-plum fairy, an American (a nice comic sequence, this) with a crazy desire to understand how television works, a troubled child, a drug addict, a young man with a taste for snuff movies, and a winged spider again. She gives a performance that would, I suspect, remain riveting if she transformed herself into an 80-year-old trainspotter in tweed. The production's problems are elsewhere.

Josie and Lily are a dull duo: but that would not matter so much if the fairyland *surrounding them had indeed been created* by Breughel and mad Richard Dadd. Annie Smart, who designs, and Ian Spink, the choreographer, are far from rivalling that pairing. Perhaps the budget precluded giants riding on pigs and so forth: but surely the grotesquerie could be greater, the movement more striking, the dancing wilder than is the case here. Even Kelpie, meant to be half-man and half-horse, is a bloke with a bare chest, a drab blue suit and far less hunger for human meat than is required. And I have been to odder parties in Fulham than the banquet thrown by the swirling residents of Smart's mildly decorative underworld.

So what's the point and purpose of it all? There is a moment when the Skriker says fairyland is "the real world". Certainly, some of her own personae, notably the chap with the taste for snuff-movies and a yearning for Armageddon, belong in a distinctively human bestiary. Has Churchill ventured into folklore and the darker parts of our collective unconscious in hopes of finding fresh metaphors for that mad, muddled place, England? If so, she has not quite succeeded.

CONCERT

A lyric — and Elder flowers

CBSO/Elder
Birmingham

IT MIGHT be no more than a matter of the alleged critical urge to consign performers to pigeonholes, and to keep them there no matter what, but it does still seem that Mark Elder is more inspired when he is conducting music with words attached. Certainly, of the three works he played with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Symphony Hall, it was the least likely candidate — an unsuccessful Prix de Rome entry by a 26-year-old composer — that made the greatest impression.

True, Prix de Rome cantatas which did not win the competition are not necessarily worse than those which did; true too, the young composer was Hector Berlioz. Even so it would be difficult to claim that *La Mort de Cléopâtre* is a more accomplished work than such pillars of the repertoire as Elgar's "Introduction and Allegro" and Sibelius's First Symphony.

In spite of the fustian language of the set text — "Un vil reptile est mon recours" — Berlioz did find some emotional truth in Cleopatra's encounter with the fatal asp, and what he didn't find he invented, calling on harmonic and rhythmic resources he was to develop later in such masterpieces as *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Trojans*.

Neither the consummate mezzo soloist, Ann Murray, nor the conductor let a single expressive possibility pass unnoticed. More than a matter of realising the melodic potential of the central Meditation, it was a sustained and vivid study in dramatic detail, from the impressively dark colouring at *the beginning to an ending which* defies convention for the reality of fragmented, breathless phrases in the vocal line and disconnected gestures in the orchestra.

There is no doubt that, as chief guest conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mark Elder gets maximum co-operation and a very good sound in Symphony Hall. Indeed, in the "Introduction and Allegro", with second violins authentically and courageously separated from the firsts on opposite sides of the platform, he achieved not only clear textures but also uncommonly accurate ensemble.

The sound in Sibelius's First *Symphony was romantically ro*bust and at the same time flexible enough to make an acoustic reality of a well calculated structural strategy. But what was lacking in both these items, in comparison with the Berlioz interpretation, was the bar-by-bar or at least page-by-page illumination which marks the difference between an experience and a display of conducting.

GERALD LARNER

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Picasso special

"As the era they opened prepares for its official closure, Matisse and Picasso appear to be struggling more fiercely than ever. It seems terribly important for our *fin-de-siècle* to decide — to *know* — which was the greater artist. Let me put the century out of its misery. The answer, most definitely and by some way, is Picasso . . ."

Waldemar Januszczak on the brilliance of Picasso — The Culture, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

A to Z in 3D: the home life of letters

When artists were challenged to express the alphabet as a series of small sculptures, the response was surprising

What does a D do when it is not on duty? Can a Q ever be orderly without a u? What sort of letter am I?

Anyone who works with writing knows that these squiggles are more than letters: they are characters. Although they can be indefinitely manipulated and interpreted, formally or casually presented, each has an unchanging essence. Beyond some boundary which we recognise but could not plot, an A ceases to be an A.

Because they combine angularity with curves, thick strokes with thin, and are traditionally finished with serifs, letters do not always fit well together. Some are fatter or taller than others, and spacing them harmoniously in lines is a refined craft. Beyond their usefulness, however, these signs provide a range of abstract and associative possibilities, from the four-square monumentalism of a capital M to the bulging of a B or the flourishes of a y or q.

"Letters of the Alphabet", an exhibition by some 35 artists at the Gallery in Cork Street, shows letters breaking through into the realm of fine art. Through an offshoot of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators appropriately called the Letter Exchange, each artist was commissioned to supply an independent sculptural piece, small enough for domestic display, in his or her choice of medium. The initial allocations were as recent as November, and so widespread was the enthusiasm that digits and the logotypes £, $ and & had to be added to the list.

A good number of the artists can trace a connection back to Eric Gill, across two or more generations, most notably through the Cambridge workshop of David Kindersley, the world's leading university of lettering. From there come the P (somewhat twee in its pod), W, X, 6 (cut into a die) and several others, including complete alphabets. An illegibly decorative Y reminds us that medieval illuminators thought of letterforms as trunks for their branching exuberance.

Lida Lopez Cardozo contributes a magnificent plate of blue glass with a calligraphic alphabet running around it and beautifully controlled swashes decorating the middle. Glass is a difficult but satisfying medium for lettering, and the engraver David Peace was perhaps unlucky to be allotted 5, rather than a letter.

David Pilkington has a continuous line (like that on a tennis ball) incising Z into five faces of a glass cube. As the piece is turned, different diagonals intersect, but without interference. This is a proper reflection on the qualities of a much-maligned letter.

Other works extend the repertoire of stone inscriptions. Sarah More trisects a lower-case d on Welsh slate, and has a memorable quadratic Q on Woodkirk yorkstone. She seems to be analysing the geometry of the letters in order to reconstitute them. For bold cutting in slate — as a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend — Tom Perkins's italic *a* could scarcely be bettered. His deep arcs run over the edges of the 30cm square, and meet at acute angles, bringing brio to what is often a stately, plump sort of character. And as well as forming a vigorous letter, his line creates satisfying shapes of virgin surface.



Kenneth Thompson shows his working in "The Making of U"

Also in stone, Brenda Berman of Incisive Letterwork cuts I as a handsome Ionic column, and Kenneth Thompson lets his working show in "The Making of U." James Salisbury evokes a scene from his letter. His lapidary poem, "Summer's swallows skimming over sunbeams and shadows," gives the words form ("skimming" vaults above "over"), while a gash of gilding dapples the grooves.

For N, David Baker begins with a Trajan-style capital in slate but superimposes upon its classicism a lower-case italic *n* formed of neon tube. The fluid diagonal of the modern letter complements the formal bar of the old. This piece tells the story of N — and the word Neon — from beginning to end.

On paper, Ewan Clayton and Gaynor Goffe have alphabetic extravaganzas, while Stephen Raw draws with elegant simplicity against blue wash. In three dimensions, Helen Mary Skelton quarries two Qs in a piece of Cornish stone. Richard Kindersley has wrought an iron K with its best foot forward, and Bryant Fedden has two freestanding Portland U's.

Unlike some themed exhibitions, *this one has inspired the partici*pants to think both seriously and playfully.

JIM MCCUE

● Letters of the Alphabet *is at 28 Cork Street (071-287 8408), until February 12.*

In The Times on Monday

To mark the Tate's Picasso show, a free Picasso poster — *Bust, Bowl and Palette* — is being offered to *Times* readers.

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Mon 31 Jan 7.30 — HANDEL: MESSIAH Charles Farncombe (cond), Jean Rodgers, Frances McCafferty, Nikolas Tesh, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, London Gala Orch, Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir. £16.50, £14.50, £12.50, £9.50, £6.50 *All Sergeant Cancer Fund for Children

Tue 1 Feb 7.30 — THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH Stefan Sanderling (cond) John Lill (piano) Glinka Ov, Rimsky-Korsakov Piano Conc, Liadov: Rachmaninov Piano Conc No.2; Shostakovich Symphony No.10. £28, £20, £17, £13, £9, £5

Thu 3 Feb 7.30 — PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Giuseppe Sinopoli (cond) Isabelle Labèque, Katia Labèque (pianos) Mozart Concerto for two pianos, K.365; Mahler Symphony No.5 Sponsor: Condé Nast. £28, £22, £17, £10, £5, £4 *Philharmonia Ltd

Fri 4 Feb 7.30 — ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Pierre Boulez (cond) Peter Donohoe (piano) Ravel Mother Goose Suite; Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.2; Stravinsky Symphony No.3. £17.50, £12.50, £9.50, £6.50, £5 *RPO Ltd

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Sun 30 Jan 4.00 7.45 — THEATRE DE COMPLICITE (UK) London International Mime Festival. A Minute Too Late. The acclaimed ensemble pressure the classic & outrageously funny guide to death, bereavement - and how to handle them. RETURNS ONLY LIMF*SBC

Mon 31 Jan 7.45 — LFO BIRTHDAY HONOURS SCHUBERT London Festival Orchestra Ensemble, Yitzik Sacor (piano) Ross Pople (cello) Schubert String Quintet in C, D.956; Piano Quintet in A, D.667 (Trout). £10 (conc £7.50) *LFO Ltd

Tue 1 Feb 1.05 — BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA LUNCHTIME CONCERT Barry Wordsworth (cond) Introduced by Desmond Carrington. Best of British (4), Germen, Elgar, Grace Williams, Vaughan Williams, Coates. £5 (conc £4.50) BBC Radio Two

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Saturday 29 Jan 7.30 pm — YEATS QUARTET Pascal Rogé piano, Pierre Amoyal violin, Master Concert Debussy: String Quartet in G minor Op 10; Franck: Quintet in E minor Op.121; Chausson: Concert in D Op.21 for violin, piano & quartet. £12, £10, £8, £5 HMI

Sunday 30 Jan 11.30 am — YEATS QUARTET Pascal Rogé piano. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert Mozart: String Quartet in F (1790) César Franck: Piano Quintet in F minor (c.1879) Inc including programme and coffee/sherry/juice

Sunday 30 Jan 4.00 pm — MARCELLO SYRATKE piano Beethoven: 4 Sonatas (Pastoral); Sonata No.2 Op.58 Chopin: Ballade No.1 In G Bal BWV825 Prokofiev: Sonata No.3 In A minor Op.28 £10, £8, £6, £4 Anglo-European Arts

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Wednesday 2 Feb 7.30 pm — EMBELLISH STRING QUARTET Master Concert Haydn: String Quartet in G Op.76 No.1 Shostakovich: Quartet No.7 in F sharp minor Op.108 Beethoven: Quartet No.15 in A minor Op.132 £12, £10, £8, £5 Hazard Chase

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Life is a gambol for the lambs, but death is all too easy

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY



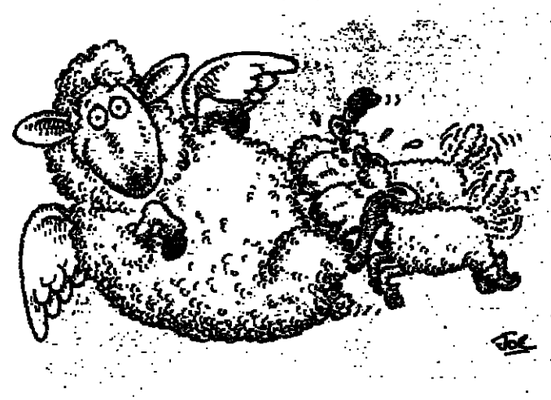
Every year in Britain during the lambing season, the number of lambs that die for one reason or another is roughly equivalent to half the population of London. Think about it. It is a massive loss by any standard, and only the most callous of shepherds would not grieve a little over every lamb that fails ever to wag its tail enthusiastically as it takes its first suck.

It is lambing time once again on this farm, and moments of great joy alternate with cruel loss almost minute by minute. Although our losses are well within the average, it does not prevent us from torturing ourselves with the thought that if only we had tried a little harder, stiff woolly corpses would now be gambolling lambs.

But the truth is they never would have been. After several lambing seasons, I am now firmly of the view that newborn lambs have either "Life" or "Death" written all over them and any attempt to change the label is largely futile. It does not, of course, prevent us trying. This year we have built a warming box to treat hypothermia, studied techniques for giving life-saving glucose, taken veterinary advice and filled our cupboards with all manner of potions and been shown how to use them. We have even had one lamb with a wonky ankle fitted with an orthopaedic plaster cast. But some lambs are born with a shadow over them, and labour though we might, there seems to be no changing the tragic path on which these sickly little creatures have been set.

But do not get the impression it is all doom and gloom. We have a fine flock of ewes, who have given us some cracking lambs this year, some born with so much life in them that they nearly bounce out of their mother ready to stand on their hind legs and box the ears of any other lamb that gets between them and their mother's teats. They have "Life!" written across them in bright lights.

The greatest thrill is to stroll to the yard on a routine inspection, and when you least expect to find any new-born lambs, you spot a couple of squidgy white twins, stretching their limbs for the first time, bleating, while a proud mother looks from one to the other in a harassed way, wondering which to lick into shape first.



There is little doubt in my mind that when it comes to licking life into their lambs, the ewes themselves have to make some cruel choices. It is sometimes the case that of a pair of twins, one is born much weaker than the other; but it is not the weakling that always get the life-giving lick of its mother's tongue. She seems to know which is worth the effort, and no matter what steps you might take to encourage her, she will stick to her guns. Or am I imagining it?

Then there are the lambs that wander and never return. Our lambing yard is secured all round with hurdles, but it takes only the tiniest gap for a confused little lamb to squeeze through. We lost a lamb last week when it strayed too far from its mother and took a suicidal route under the fence and into a puddle of icy water. In its chilly confusion, it made the fatal decision to lie down, and drowned. These are the losses that hurt the most: you curse yourself for not having been there, or not plugging the gap, or lingering in the warm kitchen over a cup of tea when you could have been there, saving *that* lamb.

But before you accuse me of neglect let me promise you such losses are not uncommon. Ask any shepherd; it is what makes them the phlegmatic creatures they are, and nothing a sheep or lamb could do would surprise an old hand at the game. One old shepherd hereabouts, if told about such an accident, would merely mutter, "Yais, they do that, do sheep." It would be nothing new to *him*.

But for all the anguish of lambing, there are huge compensations. We have one particular ewe with a kind face, appealing eyes, and a loving nature towards her lambs. She had a fine pair of twins this year. Picture the scene: she was looking straight at me and her lambs were one on each teat, tails revolving with joy as they fattened themselves on the sweet milk. She looked like a winged angel, propeller driven.

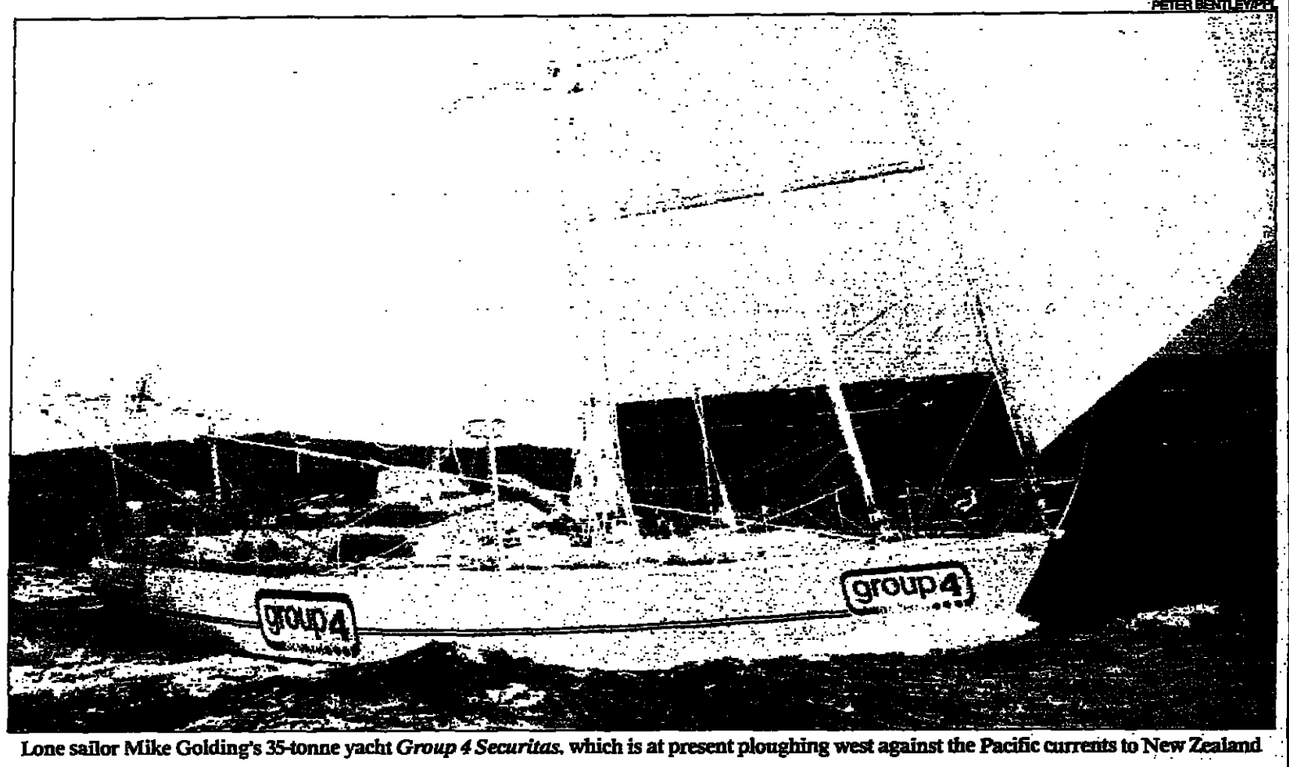
And so when you pass a field of lambs this spring, by all means enjoy them, as I do, but spare a thought for the four million that did not make it, and the shepherds who have to bear the loss.

My voyage round the Horn

Mike Golding, below, hits stormy water on his solo passage round the world



PETER BENTLEY/PA



Lone sailor Mike Golding's 35-tonne yacht *Group 4 Securitas*, which is at present ploughing west against the Pacific currents to New Zealand

I am two-thirds of the way across the Pacific, and the Southern Ocean is throwing everything it can at me. The westerly gales have been unremitting since I rounded Cape Horn on January 4 during this non-stop, solo circumnavigation against the spin of the globe.

Some days, I tack the yacht, and reef or unreef the sails so many times that I lose count. Worse, the more effort I put in the less progress I seem to make; sometimes as little as 60 miles a day.

Now I know how Chay Blyth felt in the same wind-swept waters 23 years ago after he lost the self-steering on his yacht, *British Steel*, and had to steer by hand for the remaining 20,000 miles of his solo westward circumnavigation of the world. At times, he must have been at the end of his tether, especially when knocked back 100 miles by the ferocious conditions.

I made the mistake last week of marrying the West and East Pacific charts to see how far I'd come. It was a psychological blow for, with the two sheets together, I seem to have hardly scratched the distance. This leg just seems to go on for ever.

I have found it difficult to rest. Being alone has heightened the feeling of risk. The fear of something going wrong is great. And I am now very aware of my physical limitations, and what I can achieve on a boat the size and weight of *Group 4 Securitas*.

Despite sailing on her ear [heeled over, gunwales awash] for much of the time, the boat is performing well, though each time her full 35 tonnes drops off the top of a wave and crashes down 10-15ft into the trough ahead I cringe. The yacht shakes from the base of her keel to the tip of her mast.

Below decks, the scene becomes a nightmare as lockers burst open, spilling food and spares across the saloon.

Remarkably, after 69 days at sea, I am now 36 days ahead of Chay's record schedule, and three days ahead of my position last year, when I raced around the world with a 14-man crew during the "British Steel Challenge".

If I can maintain my speed, *Group 4* will be back in Southampton at the end of April, the two of us having spent about 135 days at sea.

The strong winds have pushed me down as far as 59° south, where it became bitterly cold, with ice forming on deck at night. I have since sailed further north, but the temperatures continue to drop, and I am now wearing a full set of Henri Lloyd thermals around the clock to keep warm.

My hands are suffering from the cold; in particular, the finger I fractured on a winch a month ago. The cuts are healing well, but the joints remain stiff and painful. They swell up when I am working on deck, and then ache like mad when they warm up again whenever I go for shelter below.

The lack of exercise within my 67ft-long world has led to my legs locking up with cramp, so I've taken to doing daily exercises. I must be a comical sight trying to jog at 30° to the surrounding furniture. It is a strange feeling, but I want to be able to walk off the boat at the end of all this, rather than be carried away.

Icebergs must be a long way south this year. I have seen none yet, despite monitoring the radar during the night and keeping a sharp lookout during the day.

This time last year, when we were racing in the "British Steel Challenge", the ice in the Atlantic was level with the river Plate, [the estuary between Argentina and Uruguay] and we saw a succession of bergs in the Pacific. It is probably just as well that the ice is lower, because it is impossible to be vigilant all the time when sailing alone.

There has also been little to see in the way of wildlife since rounding the Horn. For the most part, the skies have been leaden and it has been very cold. A few dolphins have appeared riding *Group 4*'s bow wave but I have had no sightings of whales.

Seabirds have no boundaries, and follow the yacht day and night. One is a snow-white wandering albatross with a wingspan of about 12ft, which glides effortlessly in my wake. Petrels and the more common types of albatross are around the yacht most of the time. Unlike me, they seldom have to settle down to rest.

● *Mike Golding's attempted circumnavigation of the world is being recorded via messages to Barry Pickthall, The Times yachting correspondent.*

GABRIELLE IZEN



A chart showing Golding's round-the-world progress

Feather report

Sparrow has a field day

"It's just a house sparrow" — can there be a bird-watcher who hasn't sometimes said that? But of late, as some of the common birds have grown scarcer, I think many people have been looking at sparrows with a more appreciative eye.

House sparrows are certainly a remarkable species. They are what the zoologists call "commensals" — in other words, they feed "at the same table" as humans. They probably evolved as eaters of grass seeds on the savannahs, and even now they are commoner on the dry east side of England than they are in the wet West. But ever since we started cultivating the fields, they have lived with us, feeding on grain and nesting under our eaves.

They repay a close look as they fly up on to a wall and perch there for a moment. I sometimes think of the male as a sort of black and brown great tit, with its cap and bib and white wing-bar. As a seed-eater, it has a stouter beak than the tits, but it is just as lively, for ever looking round and restlessly flicking its tail. The female is duller — and both are different from the tree sparrows, a patchily distributed rural species in which both sexes have a chestnut cap and a distinctive dark cheek-mark. As for the bird called a "hedge sparrow", that is not a sparrow at all, but a thin-billed insect-hunter that scuttles under the bushes on pink feet, and is now generally called by its old name of dunnock.

In winter, towards dusk, you often hear a tremendous chattering coming from the ivy. That is the young house sparrows gathering for the night. The birds that bred last year prefer to roost in the holes and crevices where they had their nests.

They breed communally, and this leads them into various tricks. Male sparrows will kill the young birds in another sparrow's nest, and try to mate with the bereaved mother. A female will often lay some eggs in another sparrow's nest as well as its own. If it is lucky, the other female will bring up these additional young. Perhaps cuckoos began in this way, then moved on to laying their eggs in the nests of other species.

By living with man, house sparrows have learnt to feed on many other things besides grain — but when the corn is getting ripe they go down to the fields in flocks. Young and old set off together, and it is rather like a summer holiday. They fly up and down constantly between the hedges and the wheat, never going too far out into the field but having a tremendous feast.

In February and March they are destructive (from a human point of view) in another way. They attack the yellow crocus flowers and scatter the petals over the grass in what seems like wanton destruction. In fact, it is now thought that they are getting at the crocus stigmas. These contain saffron — a source of Vitamin A.

Yes — when a sparrow falls, a lot falls with it.

DERWENT MAY

● *What's about: Twitchers — pin-tail snipe, Asian species, the first in Europe, County Cork, Ireland; olive-backed pipit at Pitsea Hall Country Park, Essex. Birders — listen for the "tee-cher" call of great tits. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 45p at other times.*



Jacques

The house sparrow is at last being appreciated

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 75

ACROSS

8 Provided with cross-references (7)
9 City on R Tay (5)
10 Whig PM 1835-1841 (9)
11 Shrub; type of rose (3)
12 Equip again with weapons (5)
14 Cecil B —, US film-maker (2,5)
15 Queen of France and England; wife of Henry II (7)
17 Floats up (5)
19 Small ball inside whistle (3)
20 Bring plane down in emergency (5-4)
22 Trainee officer (5)
23 Raise to peerage (7)

DOWN

1 Control allowing varying levels of light (6)
2 Statue offered worship (4)
3 Deprive of access to sacraments (13)
4 Loved (6)
5 Motorway maniac (5,8)
6 Chanters idly (8)
7 Expression; musical idea (6)
13 Queen of William IV (8)
15 Consider likely (6)
16 Foreign-language textbook (6)
18 Sir Philip —, Elizabethan poet and courtier (6)
21 French priest (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 74

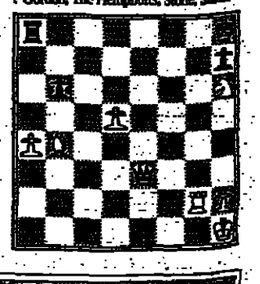
ACROSS: 1 Euston 4 Wrap up 9 Jujitsu 10 Morse 11 Youth 13 Serpent 14 Nan 15 Ninon 16 Num 17 Tally-ho 19 Tacit 21 Canto 22 Tempest 24 Sphinx 25 Tarsus

DOWN: 1 Enjoy 2 Sojourn 3 Opt 5 Rembrandt 6 Purge 7 Preston 8 Puss in Boots 12 Honeymoon 14 Notices 16 Nucleus 18 Lynch 20 Titus 23 Moa

By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from the game Krasenkov - Nunn, Hastings Premier 1993. Black is in trouble. White threatens Nf7 mate and Bc3+ is also on the cards. Additionally, although 1 ... Qc1+ 2 Rg1 Qxg1+ is possible, White would have very good chances to win the resultant endgame. Black has only one way to draw. Can you see it? Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a *British Chess Magazine* book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 ... f3. Last week's winners are: M F Young, Bumblers Road, Highbridge, Somerset; D Poyner, Waterhouse Moor, Harlow, Essex; P Gordon, The Hemphotts, Stone, Staffs.



By Phillip Howard

LIMACEOUS
a. Slug-like
b. Muddy
c. Voraciously greedy

MAMMIFEROUS
a. Made of iron
b. Bearing fruit
c. With breasts

SCIOLISM
a. Medieval metaphysics
b. Being a know-all
c. Superficial knowledge

SAPID
a. Insipid
b. Vapid
c. Savoury

Answers on page 15